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OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine (right) yesterday inspects the northern border fence, accompanied by a guard. (Avihu Shapira/Israel Sun)

1 Lebanese killed, three hurt by roadside bomb

By DAVID RUDGE

A Lebanese civilian was killed and three others were wounded by a roadside bomb inside the security zone yesterday. An IDF soldier was lightly hurt in a separate incident.

Hizbullah announced that one of its gunmen had been killed in an earlier exchange of fire.

Yesterday's fighting, including a second roadside bomb, took place as the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group met to discuss complaints by Israel and Lebanon over recent breaches of the understandings.

Hizbullah is believed responsible for the two bomb attacks yesterday morning, although no organization claimed responsibility, apparently because the casualties were civilians.

The first bomb had been planted within a few meters of the border fence on the Lebanese side, between Metulla and Kibbutz Misgav Am. It was detonated as an IDF command car passed by on patrol, but without causing any casualties or damage.

The second device exploded alongside a delivery van, killing one of the civilians inside and wounding three others, two of them seriously. The wounded, all Shi'ite residents of the security zone, were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The second bombing occurred near Markabeh village, about 2 km. from the scene of the first explosion. It is believed the device had been intended for IDF troops conducting searches after the first blast.

Six Shi'ite residents of the zone were killed and another badly wounded in a similar roadside bomb attack near the South Lebanese Army's Kawkabeh position last Tuesday.

Security sources said it appears that Hizbullah has "lost its senses" and is no longer concerned about its claim to be "the protector of the Lebanese people."

Israel lodged a protest with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over yesterday's incident, in addition to its earlier complaint over the incident near Kawkabeh.

Galilee commander Brig.-Gen. Effi Eitam told reporters that two terrorists had apparently been involved in planting the relatively small roadside bombs. They had been forced to act hastily to avoid being spotted and this had led to the failure of the attacks, he said.

In this respect, he said the security zone had proved its worth, despite the fact that the perpetrators had managed to plant one of the devices close to the border fence.

He stressed that the vast majority of residents of the security zone are loyal and this makes it more difficult for hostile elements to operate in the zone. Nevertheless, there were a few cases of collaboration between local residents and Hizbullah, he said.

See LEBANON, Page 2

PA: Sharif was killed in Hamas feud

By STEVE RODAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In a sudden reversal, the Palestinian Authority yesterday absolved Israel of responsibility for the killing of Hamas bombmaker Muhi Sharif. It blamed his death on plotters from his own organization embroiled in a power struggle for control of its Izzadin Kassam military wing.

PA officials, echoing the assessments of Israeli security sources, said their investigation of Sharif's death on March 29 determined that he was killed by three bullets fired by one of five Hamas assassins. His body was then brought to his bomb factory in a garage on the outskirts of the Beitunya industrial zone outside Ramallah and the building was blown up to conceal the killing and make it appear as if Sharif was killed in an accident.

Senior IDF officers expressed skepticism over the PA version, but were reluctant to dismiss the claim outright. One senior officer continued to insist that Sharif was killed in a "work accident."

Top IDF officers said that, despite the report, the potential threat of Hamas terrorism remains high and that the coming month presents Hamas with a number of choice dates for attacks, including Pessah and Independence Day.

According to senior IDF commanders, the PA is concerned with the consequences of an attack and has issued an "ultimatum" to Hamas, warning it will crack down severely if there is an attack.

"The case is one of individuals," said PA cabinet secretary Tayeb Abdul Rahim, who led the PA inquiry committee. "No state is behind the case. This is what we have proven."

PA Minister for International Cooperation Nabil Shaath confirmed that Sharif was killed in a feud within Hamas. "They [the assassins] are people inside Hamas," he told reporters in Ramallah. "They are very close to Muhi Sharif."

Ribhi Sharif, his father, was told the results of the PA investigation during a meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. "The president told us it was a group from Hamas which killed our son," he said.



Jibril Rajoub (Reuters)

Hours after the investigation results were released, Hamas – which announced its own probe – distributed leaflets calling the PA findings "lies" throughout the territories. The leaflets were circulated as Abdul Rahim met with Hamas leaders to discuss the PA investigation.

"The Kassam squad said Israel was responsible and the Kassam squad had nothing to do with this," Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi told Israel Radio's Arabic service.

On Saturday night, Rantisi had implied in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* that the Palestinian Preventive Security Service (PSS) was responsible for Sharif's death. He subsequently denied having made the remarks, but a recording of the interview, which was played on Israel Radio, confirmed that Rantisi had indeed made the charge.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who received the findings of the PA report, welcomed them. "I think this is a positive development," he said. "I have to point out two things. One, our saying that Israel was not involved in the killing of Muhi Sharif was proven correct. It is sad that senior officials in the PA had to make baseless accusations against Israel. Second, if the PA wants to, it can fight terror."

PA security sources said one of the Hamas suspects – one of about 30 arrested over the last three days – confessed to being part of the plot to kill Sharif.

See SHARIF, Page 2

Netanyahu: Arrests a positive sign

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday described the Palestinian Authority's arrests of Hamas activists on suspicion of murdering Hamas bombmaker Muhi Sharif as a positive development that proves the PA can fight terrorism.

Speaking after a meeting with Sen. Bob Graham, a Democrat from Florida, Netanyahu said this dispels all doubts which may have existed with regard to Israel's declarations of noninvolvement in this affair.

He also expressed regret that senior PA officials rushed to lodge false charges against Israel, "something which still could have grave implications." Among the PA leaders mentioned on Israel TV's *Popolitika* program as having voiced such charges was Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

"Our statement that Israel was not responsible for Muhi Sharif's death now emerges as the incontrovertible truth," Netanyahu said.

US: Final-status talks must begin soon, Page 2

The prime minister contended that "if the PA so desires, it can combat terrorism. A systematic, intrepid, and continuous war against the terrorists and their infrastructure is essential so that we can move forward with the peace process."

Netanyahu did not see any reason for the current alert against terrorist attacks to be called off or modified.

"We are not complacent or relaxed for even a single minute," he said. "We are making every effort to defend the citizens of Israel. The problem of terrorism has not been solved and the danger it poses has not yet disappeared. But the combination of our efforts and our clearly defined position that the PA must fight it constantly and systematically is the basis for reducing and eventually crushing terrorism."

Netanyahu said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat had updated his legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, yesterday morning about the investigation of Sharif's death.

"It appears that this event was an outgrowth of an internal struggle within Hamas," Netanyahu said, noting that the PA still is looking for suspects.

Commenting on the arrests and investigation, Netanyahu's director of communications David Bar-Illan said, "The PA has proved again that it is not acting to eradicate the terrorist infrastructure, inasmuch as the bomb factory was situated between 100 and 200 meters from Preventive Security chief Jabril Rajoub's headquarters in Ramallah."

Bar-Illan also assailed the PA's initial reaction to the car explosion.

"Pointing an accusing finger at us without actually investigating the matter, and in spite of our denials – as well as the knowledge that it wasn't our doing – reflects irresponsibility and a desire to foment trouble," he said.

He pointed out that the Ramallah bomb factory was the third one to be found in recent weeks.

Legal foreign workers up 5.5%

By DAVID HARRIS

The average number of legal foreign workers was 84,000 last year, a 5.5 percent increase from 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

This rise was accompanied by a 24% increase in Palestinian workers and Arabs from south Lebanon, to 33,000.

Since February last year, the government has committed itself to reducing the number of work permits available to foreigners.

In the last quarter of the year, there was a 1.9% decline in the number of foreign workers to 87,000, in comparison to the fourth quarter of 1996.

The figures are based on the number of workers registered with the National Insurance Institute.

At the start of 1996 there were 70,000 registered workers, with this figure rising to a peak of 88,700 by the fourth quarter. During 1997, the number initially declined to 82,200, but rose from 83,500 between July and September to 87,000 in the last three months of the year.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai has committed himself to eventually cut the foreign workforce to the barest minimum, with the intention of reducing the number of permits by 10,000 during the course of this year.

In 1996, 106,161 permits were issued by Yishai's ministry. This was cut to 90,192 last year, with the intention of issuing 80,000 by this coming December. The main cut in workers will come in the construction industry, according to a ministry spokesman.

Ministry head of personnel planning Benjamin Fefferman offered possible reasons for the rise:

- There are certain sectors where there is a continuous increase in the number of workers needed, in particular in nursing and ancillary health care, employed through recruitment agencies. In this category the total number of workers rose by 3,000-4,000 last year.
- The figures presented to the National Insurance Institute by employers could well include workers without permits.

Police kill man in stolen car

Jerusalem police shot and killed an Arab man driving a stolen car last night near Kalandiya in northern Jerusalem after he ignored their orders to stop. When officers in a patrol car spotted the suspicious-looking car and signalled it to halt, its driver pulled away, and the policemen gave chase. During the pursuit the fugitive vehicle hit two police cars before it was forced to stop. Police said a passenger in the stolen car escaped on foot.

Residents stoned passing cars after news reached them of the man's death. The incident is under investigation. *Itim*

Zionist youth groups fight for their future

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Some 300 members of Zionist youth groups, wearing the different colored uniforms of their organizations, demonstrated outside Jerusalem's Kiryat Moriah yesterday in a show of unity that is rarely seen among their adult counterparts.

They are fighting the Jewish Agency over budget cuts they say will severely hamper their operations, which they called crucial for stemming assimilation and forming the future leadership of the Jewish people.

"Our budget has been cut by more than 40 percent over the last five years," said Karma Feinstein-Cohen, director of the Overseas Division of the World Betar Executive. "And while budgets have grown for administration, education has been hurt."

The 18- and 19-year-olds from 15 different organizations – Left and Right, religious and secular – chanted slogans and sang songs, while inside a six-man Jewish Agency budget committee commenced two-day deliberations over their future.

Many wore specially made T-shirts, which read in Hebrew on the front and English on the back: There is no Jewish Agency without the Zionist movement; there is no Zionist movement without Jewish Zionist education; there is no Jewish Zionist education without youth movements.

"We believe that we are the backbone of Zionist education all over the world," said Feinstein-Cohen. "Formal education is very good, but we are the extra that they get. This is what brings aliya. We don't give knowledge, we give feelings, we give closeness to Israel, we stop assimilation, and we create leadership. And we believe that if we're hurt again and our budget is cut again, then there'll be less leaders, less olim, and more assimilation."

On a string tied between two trees, the teenagers hung many T-shirts displaying their organization's colors and logo: Betar, Habonim Dror, Hashomer Hatzair, Noar Hatzioni, NFTY, Netzer – Reform Zionist Youth, Bnei Akiva.

They chanted with all the enthusiasm of youth, and they held signs, the best of which read, simply, "You need us; we need you."

Bennett Yanowitz, a lawyer who flew in from New York just for the two-day meeting, addressed them, explaining the difficulties the agency has with its budget decisions.

See Page 5

'Drug reduces risk of breast cancer'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The breast cancer drug tamoxifen reduces breast cancer cases by 45 percent in women considered at high risk of the disease, researchers said yesterday.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) said it had stopped a study on the effects of the drug more than a year early because of the dramatic findings. It said women who had been taking dummy pills as part of the trial would be given a chance to take tamoxifen instead.

"This is the first time in history that we have evidence that breast cancer can not only be treated, but can also be prevented," Dr. Bernard Fisher, scientific director of the study, told a news conference.

"This is a big deal," said Dr. Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which includes the NCI. "We don't every day have a chance to tell you about such a big advance."

In the trial of more than 13,000 healthy women, there were 85 cases of invasive breast cancer among the more than 6,600 who got tamoxifen, as opposed to 154 cases in the equal number of women who did not get the drug.

Tamoxifen also reduced the risk of noninvasive breast cancer – the kind that does not spread in the body.

"This is a real advance, but it is no magic bullet," said Dr. Richard Klausner, director of the NCI. "Only through continued research will we find preventions that are even more effective and with fewer side-effects."

Dr. Leslie Ford, associate director for early detection at the NCI's division of Cancer Prevention, said women would now have the choice of taking a drug to prevent breast cancer.

"The choice will vary depending on a woman's age, personal history, family history, and how she weighs the benefits and risks," she told the news conference.

But Ford noted there are side-effects. "Even if a woman is at increased risk of breast cancer, tamoxifen therapy may not be appropriate for her," Ford said.

Dollar hits NIS 3.7

By DAVID HARRIS and DAN GERSTENFELD

The shekel yesterday depreciated 1.92 percent against the dollar – an all-time high – leading Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to call for calm on the part of the public.

The representative rate for the dollar was set at NIS 3.701, which dealers attributed to speculative moves ahead of the eagerly anticipated announcement on currency liberalization.

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هكذا من الاصل

Galilee Arabs protest demolition of homes

By DAVID RUDGE

Thousands of Galilee Arabs demonstrated quietly in Shfaram yesterday, in contrast with the riots in the area Saturday night in which dozens of policemen and stone-throwing demonstrators were injured.

A march by the protesters blocked the main Haifa-Nazareth road for nearly an hour, but large numbers of policemen and border policemen on standby in case of disturbances had nothing to do.

The demonstrators, chanting slogans denouncing the government and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in particular, marched from the center of Shfaram along a two-kilometer route to nearby Umm al-Sahali, a small Beduin community.

The event was organized by the monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership in protest over the demolition of three illegally-built homes in the Beduin settlement last Thursday.

A 24-hour general strike of the entire Arab sector that was also declared by the monitoring committee to protest against the demolition was only partially observed. Many people went to work as usual and several shops and businesses were open, even in Shfaram itself.

Nevertheless, the protest march and the strike achieved what the Israeli Arab leadership said was its main objective of demonstrating the unity of the non-Jewish community.

"The authorities will not be so quick now to take steps against Arab citizens without taking into account their determination not to reconcile themselves to the demolition of homes and schemes against them," said Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, chairman of the monitoring committee.

Nimr Hussein, who is also mayor of Shfaram, spoke at a rally that culminated the protest march at the site of the demolished buildings in Al-Sahali. Palestinian flags as well as the green flag of the Islamic Movement were hoisted over the site, where work has started on rebuilding the three houses.

"This is not just a problem of al-Sahali or of the Beduin in particular, but something that effects the entire Arab sector. Today it's the Beduin, but tomorrow it could be me or anybody else whose home is knocked down," said a demonstrator from Shfaram, who gave his name as Na'ameh.

"We don't have another country or place to live. This is our home and our land where we have lived for generations. If we don't stand up for our rights nobody will do it for us," said the man.

Fawzi Su'ad, a Beduin from another small village on the outskirts of Kiryat Ata, expressed similar views. "I served as a tracker in the IDF for three years, as have all the men in my family. One of my uncles is a disabled veteran," said Su'ad. "I feel deprived and discriminated against. We are not even second class citizens, but third or fourth.

"I have lived in our settlement ever since I was born 35 years ago, just like the people in al-Sahali. We've got the same problem – that our community is not recognized – and I live in fear that one day or night the bulldozers might come and demolish my home," he said.

Israeli Arab leaders say there are over 12,000 homes in the Arab sector subject to demolition orders, because they were built without permits.



Galilee Arabs march yesterday from Shfaram to nearby Umm al-Sahali to protest against the demolition of three illegally built homes last Thursday. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Arab council heads have blamed the government for not tackling the problem by formulating a comprehensive long-term development plan for the Arab sector and for curtailing the amount of land under the municipal jurisdiction of Arab councils.

"The whole issue of land and building in the Arab sector is like a keg of dynamite that could explode at any time unless the government take steps to resolve the problem," said Sakhnin Mayor Mohammed Ghanayim.

"If this is the beginning of a policy towards the Arab community there could be further trouble, because we are united in our opposition to any attempts to uproot citizens from their land and knock down their homes," he said.

Batsheva Tsur adds:

President Ezer Weizman plans to visit the Beduin village of Su'ad, near Shfaram, on Thursday. Weizman said yesterday he does not condone the violence, but he understands the feelings behind them.

"I was not surprised that something exploded. There is a large Arab population in Israel – one million Christians and Moslems, as well as Druse and Beduin who serve in the IDF – and their conditions have to be significantly improved," Weizman said. "In the South, the Beduin live in shacks and those who serve in the IDF have better conditions in the army than at home."

Weizman warned that, if the conditions of the Arab sector are not improved, this issue could prove to be a powder keg. He said he had warned Netanyahu that the situation must be taken in hand.

Weizman was speaking to reporters following a visit to Eliezer Frankel, who is in serious condition at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem after being stoned at Bir Naballah over the weekend.

Itim adds:

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has called on the Arab leadership not to be dragged into violence.

"Nothing justifies the type of violent intifada we witnessed at Su'ad," Hanegbi said yesterday.

Some 99% of the Arab sector "and maybe even more" are loyal citizens who have not been and will not be involved in illegal activity, Hanegbi said.

Lauding the Arab leadership for its responsible attitude in the past, Hanegbi said this should not change after 50 years. "The relationship between Jews and Arabs in the jubilee year is marked by progress, brotherhood, and cooperation," he said. Hanegbi was speaking during a visit to his ministry's offices in Haifa.

MK wants senior policeman fired

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Abdul Malik Dehamshe (Democratic Arab Party) yesterday called for the dismissal of Northern District police chief Cmdr. Alik Ron. He also called for a state commission of inquiry into the events surrounding the violent clashes between police and Beduin in the North after the demolition of illegally built Beduin homes last week and Saturday night's riots.

Dehamshe is also calling on Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Interior Minister Eli Suissa to resign. "Only after this happens, after Ron is dismissed and a commission of inquiry established to publish the truth, can we begin to talk," he said.

Dehamshe, who was present during the rioting in the Shfaram area Saturday night, described the incident in which 20 policemen and a similar number of demonstrators were injured as "an attempted massacre which only by miracle didn't result in deaths.

"What goes on in south Lebanon is nothing compared to what went on here [Saturday night]. Only with God's help were the deaths of perhaps scores of people avoided. It was unprovoked war by the police."

Dehamshe said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu should not go ahead with his planned visit to a Beduin village for Id al-Adha until Ron and the ministers had been called to task.

Ron has accused the Islamic Movement of exacerbating the dispute with the Beduin and reportedly called it "dangerous" and "nasty."

"It is he [Ron] who is mean and dangerous," said Dehamshe. "The same commander who attacked the residents instead of protecting them, preserving order, and giving the people some respect. I don't think he should be allowed to stay on another minute in the police.

"I think the internal security minister – who is responsible for him – and the interior minister, who are both responsible for this fiasco, should also resign after what they did."

Dehamshe accused the police of consistently discriminating against Arabs and using unnecessary force against them. He rejected reports that the Beduin of Al Sahali had been offered alternative homes as irrelevant.

"Why can't we live in our own homes in out own villages?" he asked. "Why do we have to leave? Why don't they suggest a Jewish community be moved elsewhere. Why should it be as if we don't exist? As if we have no right to be there and have to be moved. The Beduin have lived on these lands longer than the Jews. The government should make peace with the Palestinians who live here, too."

Israeli-Arab leaders call for boycott of Netanyahu's Id al-Adha visit

By DAVID RUDGE

Israeli-Arab leaders are pressuring the head of the Tuba-Zangharia Local Council not to host Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is scheduled to visit the northern Beduin village later this week.

The monitoring committee of the Israeli-Arab leadership has called on council heads to boycott meetings with government ministers and not to host them over the Id al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) holiday.

The decision was taken in protest over the demolition last Thursday of three homes in Umm a-Sahali, a small Beduin settlement near Shfaram.

"If the a-Sahali problem is not solved beforehand and the visit by the prime minister to Tuba still goes ahead as scheduled, it will cause a great deal of frustration in the Beduin community and the entire Arab sector," said Abed Inbitawi, spokesman for the monitoring committee.

"If this happens then I'm sure that the appropriate steps would be taken against the head of Tuba local council, Hussein Haib," Inbitawi said.

He declined to elaborate on the kind of action that could be implemented in such circumstances, although it was likely to take some form of censure of Haib, a member of the Forum of Arab Council Heads and the monitoring committee.

Haib said yesterday that it had been agreed that the visit would go ahead if Netanyahu agrees to give assurances allowing the reconstruction of the homes that were demolished in Umm a-Sahali.

"We are also asking him to make a declaration that there will be no more demolition of homes in the non-Jewish sector until solutions to the problem have been formulated," he said.

"So far, we have not received a response from the Prime Minister's Office and we have not heard whether the visit will go ahead or not," added Haib, who participated in a demonstration in Shfaram yesterday to protest the demolition of the houses in Umm a-Sahali.

In contrast, Arab leaders welcomed the announcement that President Ezer Weizman will visit Shfaram on Thursday and will discuss with them ways of trying to solve the problem of illegal housing in the Arab sector.

Meanwhile, police have arrested four residents of Tuba-Zangharia, a 19-year-old man and three juveniles, after the discovery of an arms cache, which included dozens of phosphorous grenades, mortar rounds and a rifle. Police believe that the cache of arms was not connected to Netanyahu's plans to visit, but to criminal activities.

Jay Bushinsky adds:

Government officials said Netanyahu's trip was planned several weeks ago and was not prompted by the recent outbreaks of violence in Shfaram over the razing of illegal dwellings by order of the police.

Tuba-Zangharia is northeast of Rosh Pina, near the region's airport at Mahanayim, and is renowned for its traditional forms of agricultural that date back thousands of years in this country.

A senior aide described the village as one of "the most Israeli" of this country's Beduin communities.

Gov't: Killing of collaborators violates Oslo

By STEVE RODAN

The government accused the Palestinian Authority of violating the Oslo Accords by being involved in the killing of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

A government statement said yesterday that since the establishment of the PA in 1994, more than 160 suspected collaborators have been wounded or killed.

"Rather than protect such people," the statement said, "the PA and its security services have targeted and intimidated them in violation of the accords."

The government statement said 67 Palestinians have been killed and 96 others injured. Most of them were residents of the West Bank.

Israeli officials said the PA puts most of its intelligence efforts into monitoring and interrogating suspected Palestinian collaborators. They pointed to the most recent killing of a suspected collaborator, 48-year-old Ribhi Musfi. Musfi's body was found on the outskirts of PA-controlled Jericho on March 29.

Israeli police believe that Musfi, who at one time was regarded as a leading source of information for Israel, was summoned to an interrogation by Palestinian security forces in Ramallah, where he disappeared.

The government statement said the killing of the collaborators violates Article XVI of the 1995 Oslo 2 Accord, which states. "Palestinians who have maintained contact with the Israeli authorities will not be subjected to acts of harassment, violence, retribution or prosecution.

Appropriate ongoing measures will be taken in coordination with Israel in order to ensure their protection."

PA officials were not available for comment on the Israeli government statement. In the past, however, the PA has denied responsibility for the killing of collaborators, blaming their deaths on personal feuding.

US: Final-status talks must begin soon

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – Final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority should begin as soon as possible, because just over a year remains until a peace treaty is scheduled to be reached, US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross said yesterday.

Ross' comments appear to be the first time the US has publicly discussed its support for those negotiations in the context of the shrinking calendar of the Oslo 2 agreement that called for a final agreement to be reached by May 1999.

Last year, the US endorsed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal for jumping to final-status talks, but always qualified it by stating it should be "married" to the remaining interim-status commitments that have yet to be fulfilled. In so doing, it also endorsed – in the Hebron Accord and subsequently – the Palestinian demand that the three required IDF redeployments be carried out by mid-1998.

In an appearance yesterday before the Anti-Defamation League, Ross responded to a question on last week's letter from 81 senators to US President Bill Clinton that opposed the US changing its role of a facilitator to one in which it might apply public pressure on Israel.

Ross said he respects the Senate's opinion, but the administration has found it has to raise ideas itself because the parties are not responding to each other.

He also said it is important for the American Jewish community to understand the administration's position and to support it, saying that that is one reason he agreed to address the forum.

Ross was to brief Clinton last night on his recent visit to the region, with the administration intending to decide afterward what to do next to advance the Israeli-Palestinian talks, US officials said.

But Washington has not yet decided whether Ross will be sent back to the region, the State Department said.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was intending to join the Clinton-Ross briefing immediately upon her return from meetings in the Caribbean.

"All of them will be discussing the current state of play and Ambassador Ross' efforts, and deciding where we go from there," State Department spokesman James Foley told reporters.

Mike McCurry, his counterpart at the White House, said that Clinton was looking forward to the briefing. "I expect that we'll do some hard thinking about the process itself," he said, adding that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are "clearly, not working well." But he added that the US believes the Oslo process remains a workable format.

LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

Eitam noted that more than 20 gunmen had been killed by IDF and SLA troops since the beginning of the year, at least three in the past week. Hizbullah, he said, is concentrating more and more long range attacks because it is not succeeding in close-quarter confrontations.

The soldier was lightly wounded when IDF troops came under fire from mortars in the central sector of the zone. Security sources noted that the mortar fire had originated from inside Kabrikha village, north of the security zone, in breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Reuters adds:

Syrian President Hafez Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi yesterday described Israel's conditional offer to withdraw from south Lebanon as no more than a maneuver, Assad's spokesman Joubran Kourieh said.

"The two presidents discussed the Israeli maneuver regarding [UN] Resolution 425 and its attempts to evade the requirements of peace and the commitments it made during the peace talks," Kourieh said.

Assad's deputy, Abdel-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara went to Paris on Sunday for talks with President Jacques Chirac.

"The French shared the viewpoint that Resolution 425 did not include any conditions or commitments," Khaddam told reporters. The resolution was passed 20 years ago.

Khaddam said that Israel's offer to withdraw from south Lebanon on certain conditions was a "flagrant maneuver... it will not deceive anyone."

A Syrian official described the talks between Assad and Hrawi as a reflection of the insistence of both states on the linkage between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process.

"Israel's dream of creating a crack in the Syrian and Lebanese ties that would lead to the separation of the two tracks will not come true," the official said.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday he would be "more than happy" to give the Syrians clarifications on Israel's proposal.

His comments came in response to media reports that the Syrians are interested in further details about Israel's proposed redeployment.

"I cannot confirm alleged statements by Syria," he said, "but if those statements are true, they are interesting. If Syria wants clarifications from Israel on our desire and our policy to withdraw from south Lebanon, we would be more than happy to provide such clarifications."

SHARIF

Continued from Page 1

The sources said the killing was the result of an intensifying feud over the last two years regarding the role of the Izzadin Kassam squads, their responsibility to the movement, and the position of Sharif.

The sources said that after the assassination of Hamas bomber Yihye "The Engineer" Ayyash in January 1996 – which was blamed on Israel – Sharif sought to take control of Izzadin Kassam and control its finances.

Sharif, 32, an electrical engineer, wanted Izzadin Kassam to have sole authority over any decision to launch attacks, the PA sources said. His rival, Awad Awadallah, wanted for planning several terrorist attacks, said such a decision must be made by the Hamas leadership.

The feud intensified when Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was released from prison in October in exchange for the two Mossad agents captured by Jordan during the botched attempted assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal. Yassin stressed he did not want Hamas terror attacks to derail Arafat's attempts to obtain withdrawal from the West Bank and establish a Palestinian state.

PA sources said five Hamas members were arrested by the PSS, including one who confessed to planting the explosives that destroyed Sharif's bomb factory. They identified Awadallah as the man who shot Sharif to death.

The sources said the information provided by the suspected Hamas plotters led to the uncovering of a large cache of explosives and arms in the Ramallah area. They said PA security forces also obtained Hamas documents and videotapes.

Israeli security sources said they suspected from the start that Sharif was killed by his own organization. But one senior source said the evidence he has seen remains inconclusive. "This could be part of psychological warfare by the PA, which just yesterday was accused by Hamas of killing Sharif," the source said.

PSS chief Jibril Rajoub said the PA investigation proceeded independently. "There was no coordination between the Palestinian security apparatus and the Israeli side," he said.

Hamas leaders dismissed the PA probe and said it was an effort to prevent it from launching attacks against Israel. They said the assassination was a joint effort of the PA and the General Security Service.

Top IDF commanders also said that Hamas is split over whether to carry out massive bombings, saying that street support for such attacks is waning due to subsequent Israeli retaliation, mostly in the form of closures.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

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هكذا من الأصل

Mordechai reassures Jordan Valley residents

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The next withdrawal of 9 percent will not damage national interests, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai assured Jordan Valley settlers yesterday.

David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley settlers committee, said that, despite Mordechai's remarks, Jordan Valley residents are still concerned over the fact that the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza regards the Jordan Valley and Judean Desert as an alternative for withdrawal because of the open expanses without settlements.

He said Mordechai assured the settlers that the Jordan River baptism site will open in time for the 2000 celebrations.

Jordan Valley spokeswoman Tami Atias said the site, considered to be the sixth most important for Christians, was closed in 1967 and infrastructure and development at the site have been frozen

"The Jordanians started working on their side of the site some three months ago, realizing it would attract tourists," she said.

Elhayani said Mordechai also promised to deal with the hundreds of illegal homes built by Palestinians in the region, who are seeking to maintain a foothold on land that doesn't belong to them.

"Hundreds of buildings and dwellings have been built by the Palestinians in Area C and no one is preventing it," said Elhayani.

Following his tour in the Jordan Valley, Mordechai met with leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and IDF and military officials in Givat Ze'ev for a Pessah toast.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (center) joins Givat Ze'ev Mayor Shaul Mizrahi (left) and Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, in a Pessah toast yesterday. (Efraim Kilshtok)

Barak: Labor will join jubilee celebrations

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday nipped in the bud an attempt by several of his party's leading activists to hold its own celebrations of the state's 50th anniversary and to boycott the official ones.

The activists claimed that the government is ignoring Labor's role in the state's history.

MK Dalia Itzik spoke of "a nefarious scheme to deliberately conceal a great party from the public's consciousness." She suggested that Labor sponsor "alternative celebrations and events, including a salute to 50 great leaders who have left their mark on the state." The only figure on her list from the right side of the political map was Menachem Begin.

Itzik also has begun a campaign to demand all news and broadcasting organizations run an interview with Barak alongside any interview they might grant to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Barak did not dissociate himself from the last demand, but he did say, "Labor will celebrate with the rest of the country."

Doron Shmueli, who is in charge of the 50th anniversary festivities, discounted the Labor claims of discrimination, saying, "We are highlighting the state's achievements and not any party's."

The Likud reacted by accusing Labor of "a crybaby campaign for feigned discrimination. This comes as a coverup for the fact that this party has lost its import in Israeli public life. As usual Labor figures that the nation's resources should be at the disposal of its political campaigns. It finds it hard to cope with a reality in which parties are not documented or funded via the public coffers."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Arab protest

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid writes that the strike initiated by the monitoring committee of the Israeli-Arab leadership constitutes a national political protest. While the illegal building in the Arab sector is a violation that no state could accept, he writes, "you cannot enforce a law without providing thorough solutions to the [Arab] distress, something the government has failed to do."

Prof. Samy Samuha in *Yediot Aharonot* claims that the protest is an indication of the Israeli Arabs' deep and strong link to Israel, owing to the fact that they seek a solution to their problems within Israel. "We must view the continued struggle of the Arabs as aimed towards equality and partnership and not towards conflict," he writes.

Amir Gilat in *Ma'ariv*, on the other hand, believes that the riots in Shfaram signified the opening strike of the intifada of the Israeli Arabs. "Whoever led the riots... signaled that the Israeli Arabs think it is time to launch a different kind of fight."

Fighting Hamas

The death of bombmaker Muhi Sharif raised the issue of the power of Hamas to the top of public agenda. The disagreement between the GSS and the IDF over whether the Palestinian Authority has the capability or desire to prevent Hamas terrorist attacks occupied press commentators.

"Hamas is a cancer that's spread throughout the desperate Palestinian society," writes *Ma'ariv's* Shalom Yerushalmi. He adds that the PA lacks the sovereignty, the power, and the courage to fight Hamas. "If you [the PA] do not suppress them today, they will take your place tomorrow and then you will know the meaning of oppression."

Ha'aretz's Danny Rubinstein states that the recent events in the Palestinian public following Sharif's death have proved that Hamas is no longer an isolated and extreme movement, but a central and strengthening factor in the Palestinian existence. Given that, he adds that currently it is impossible to demand that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat suppress Hamas activists. "From Arafat's point of view, the question is not how to suppress them, but how to defend himself while appeasing them."

Barak initiates

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's proposed legislation to draft yeshiva students is a mistake, according to Bamby Sheleg in *Ma'ariv*. Although she supports drafting haredim, she objects to this being done by a legislative initiative that means "adding fuel to a burning fire in the issue of religious-secular relations." She suggests the haredi community reach a peaceful agreement based on understanding.

Referring to the possibility that the legislation might damage Barak in the next elections, Prof. Avraham Diskin states in *Yediot* that most of the population supports the initiative. As for the haredi sector, "it does not vote for left-wing parties anyway."

Papon verdict

The French court's decision to sentence Maurice Papon to 10 years in prison for crimes against humanity "constitutes a verdict of compromise, of cowardice, of hesitation," writes *Yediot's* Noach Kliger.

Nitzan Horovitz in *Ha'aretz* states that by not giving Papon a life sentence, the court has set a "scale of responsibility for crimes against humanity," positioning Papon at the bottom of the scale.

Yirmiyahu Yovel writes in *Yediot* that despite the controversy around Papon's verdict, it signifies the day "France opens up to its past... the beginning of a late maturity."



VIKING Professional
Now in Israel
Details in this Weekend's Magazine, page 3

Jewish Agency for Israel
World Zionist Organization

The offices of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization throughout the country will be

CLOSED

during Hol Hamo'ed Pessah, April 12 to April 16, inclusive

The Immigrants' Service and Information Centers of the Immigration and Absorption Department will operate throughout Hol Hamo'ed Pessah, from April 12 to April 16, according to the following schedule:

Ashdod, 1 Reh. Shavei Zion	Tel. 08-856-5873/4 Tel. 08-856-3717	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Haifa, 131 Reh. Hamaginim	Tel. 08-856-5047 Tel. 04-851-0401 Tel. 04-851-0351	8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sun.-Wed. only
Acre, 35 Reh. Weizmann Beersheba, 1 Reh. Henrietta Szold	Tel. 04-995-6140 Tel. 07-629-5697	8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sun.-Wed. only 8 a.m.-12 noon Sun.-Tue. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thur.

The Telephone Information Center - 177-022-1314 - will not operate during the holiday.

The Agency's custom's clearance house and warehouses at Tzrifin will be closed during Hol Hamo'ed Pessah.

The National Institutions wish all of Israel a Happy and Kosher Pessah!

NEWS

in brief

Teen remanded for shooting two girls

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday denied an appeal against the remand of a 16-year-old boy suspected of shooting two girls.

Police said the boy shot his former girlfriend, 16, and her 13-year old friend in the legs while they were seeing two boys from Ramle.

Moshe Meroz, the boy's lawyer, said his client does not have a criminal record and there is no chance he would harm the girls. He also claimed there is no substantial evidence against the boy. Meroz said the boy could be released on bail or placed under house arrest. In rejecting the appeal, Judge Avraham Beizer said he believes the girls' testimony. Beizer remanded the boy until the end of legal proceedings. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Surrogate committee suspends functioning

The Health Ministry's committee for approving surrogate parenthood arrangements has suspended its functioning for a few weeks to reassess various issues raised by the first babies – twins – born recently to a commissioning couple. Director-General Gabi Barabash said yesterday that two more surrogates are pregnant and 36 couples have signed agreements with potential surrogates since the Surrogacy Law went into effect over a year ago.

The first successful surrogate told Army Radio that "even a woman with the healthiest psychological make up could go out of her mind" in this situation. "I had a fetus in my womb that in effect was not mine, but my body refused to regard it as not mine. One gets connected to it, whether you like it or not." *Judy Siegel*

MDA operator helps direct birth by phone

A National Service participant volunteering at Magen David Adom coached a pregnant woman through the initial steps of the birth process. The pregnant woman called MDA and said that she was about to give birth. After dispatching an ambulance, the volunteer stayed on the phone with the woman, telling her what to do until the MDA crew arrived to deliver the baby. *Itim*

Hospital fees drop slightly

Charges for hospitalization and outpatient care in general hospitals dropped by 1.48 percent on April 1 and in geriatric and psychiatric hospitals by 3.35%, the Health Ministry announced yesterday. Associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev explained that a committee of experts comprised of Health and Finance ministry officials and representatives of the hospitals and health funds reached the conclusion that the rates that health funds pay for their members' treatment should be cut. The reasons were reduced inflation, the recession, and the number of added job slots in the hospitals. Lev said however that the decision will be reassessed in the future to determine whether the hospitals suffer and if they deserve compensation for reduced income. *Judy Siegel*

'Time:' Ben-Gurion among century's top players

David Ben-Gurion – along with Hitler and Khomeini, Churchill and three Roosevelts – has been named as one of the 100 "influential players" of the 20th century by Time magazine. Ben-Gurion was named by Time in the first of a series of five issues celebrating the century. The magazine this year will profile 100 political, scientific, cultural and business leaders, counting down to the "Person of the Century." *Marilyn Henry*

Herzog honored one year after his death

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Chaim Herzog was "the national tranquilizer," President Ezer Weizman said yesterday at the state ceremony at Mount Herzl which marked the first anniversary of the former president's death.

Both Weizman and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron spoke of Herzog's calming influence on the nation during the Six Day War.

Weizman recalled that he had first met Herzog in a bunker during the War of Independence, at which time they reminisced about their respective exploits during World War II. Weizman and Herzog later served together as members of the IDF general staff.

Reviewing Herzog's rich and varied career, Bakshi-Doron said that the sixth president's proudest moment had been at the UN, when he defended the Zionist enterprise.

In a reference to Herzog's upbringing and family background, Bakshi-Doron remarked that "he was born with a good name and he died with a good name."

Herzog's son Joel, the eldest of his four children, thanked the thousands of people who had sent messages of condolence and support throughout the year. The experiences of World War II and the War of Independence had accompanied his father all the days of his life, he said, and had given him a special perspective in his role as president. He always had been fearful of a rift in the nation and had mustered all of his energies to be a unifying force.

Later, at a commemorative gathering at Beit Hanassi, Weizman related that it had been Herzog who had first suggested toward the end of his own 10-year term that Weizman run for president.

Brooding aloud about how to resolve the dilemma of Israel's identity and where the nation stands Jewishly, Weizman said that Herzog was much more aware in this regard than leaders with secular backgrounds.

Herzog stood for truth, justice and peace, said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, recalling that his greatest battle on two of these fronts was at the UN. Netanyahu also lauded Herzog's modesty and told of an occasion when Herzog came to visit him in his office. There was a long line of people waiting to get into the building and Herzog waited patiently in line until it was his turn.

All speakers, including Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and Shlomo Avineri, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, described Herzog as a proud Jew who was a curious blend of a British gentleman, Israeli warrior and patriot, and Jewish soldier who took upon himself the mission of achieving national unity.



President Ezer Weizman, his wife Reuma, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara pay tribute to former president Chaim Herzog at a memorial ceremony at Mount Herzl yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Public housing purchase bill to be reintroduced

By LIAT COLLINS

The group of MKs which las month was thwarted in its plans t pass on first reading a bill whic would allow long-term resident of public housing to purchase thei homes at a reduced price intend to raise the bill again next month when the Knesset returns from it recess.

Ran Cohen (Meretz) and Maxir Levy (Gesher) yesterday held press conference in Tel Aviv o the bill they had presented, alon with Roman Bronfman (Yisrae Ba'aliya), Anat Maor (Meretz Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), an Shevah Weiss (Labor).

"If the government wants to fin solutions to the housing problem this bill must pass," Cohen said.

He said the bill referred to som 120,000 residents of public hous ing throughout the country. "Th longer they have lived there – an the longer they have been paying the greater the reduction would be This makes economic sense and i socially just."

He said the sale of these home would raise more than NIS 8 bi lion which could be used by pub lic housing companies such a Amidar and Amigur to construc another new 33,000 homes usin existing infrastructure.

"Today the government is no building anything for the familie waiting for homes," Cohen sai "It just waits for the current res dents to die and then takes th homes from their children, wh are thrown out onto the street s that the apartments can be given someone else."

The bill came up for first rea ing just before the recess, but in a unusual step was turned into motion of no-confidence by coal tion whip Meir Sheetrit to stop vote. Sheetrit said the governme would present its own bill on pu lic housing which would addre issues not contained in Cohen bill, such as the large difference the value of property in the cent of the country and that in develo ment towns.

Cohen said the coalition shou have supported the bill and ma amendments in committee. "Th fact they didn't support it is a si they want to carry out privatiz tion not to benefit the people wh have lived in the homes 20 and years, but for millionaires and re estate pimps who will kick out t residents and their children a make new projects to bene themselves at the expense of t state and the residents."

Kibbutznik sentenced to 11 years in grenade killing

David Kay, 67, of Sde Nehemia, a kibbutz in Upper Galilee, was sentenced yesterday by Nazareth District Court to 11 years in prison and two years probation for killing fellow kibbutz member Gadi Matzar with a grenade.

Kay had originally been charged with murder, but after hearing some of the testimony at the trial, prosecutor Esther Gofer came to the conclusion that the charge should be reduced to manslaughter. Kay then decided to plead guilty to this charge and to illegally possessing a weapon.

Matzar, who served as deputy head and treasurer of the Upper Galilee Regional Council, was killed on the evening of December 22, 1996. He had gone to pick up his bicycle from the kibbutz shop where it had been repaired, when a hand grenade landed nearby, killing him.

In handing down sentence, the court noted that after his arrest, Kay continued to maintain his innocence, even though he admitted a grenade had been in his possession for many years and that he had thrown it, though the admission came only after a polygraph test had refuted his earlier denial.

According to Kay, he used to throw the grenade, with the pin still in it, while riding his bicycle around the kibbutz.

On the evening in question, he said, he heard a click when he threw the grenade, thus he knew the pin had come out and the grenade was armed.

The court said that while it could not ignore Kay's behavior after the incident, it was taking his age and the fact that after his release from prison he would no longer have a home on the kibbutz, into account in passing sentence. (Itim)

Ministry helps workers cope with anti-Israel propaganda

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The Foreign Ministry held a special seminar yesterday for officials and employees of public institutions which maintain regular contact with international bodies in an effort to help the institutions cope with anti-Israel propaganda and initiatives.

Among the participants were representatives of the Export Institute, Magen David Adom and the Jewish Agency.

Director-General Eytan Bentsur told the group that the Foreign Ministry has manpower and experience which can be of great assistance to this end. He said Israel's diplomatic corps also can help improve the participating organizations' links with their overseas counterparts or with foreign bodies with which they may have common cause.

The ministry's spokesman, Aviv Shir-On, said the ultimate goals were to prevent international bodies from being transformed into springboards for incitement against Israel and to create a forum in which developments of this kind can be identified, analyzed and treated.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC חברת החשמל

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The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods and services:

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2. Three samples of each item offered.
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Samples must be sent to Mr. N. Greenberg at the Electricity Network Planning Department at the national grid, Haifa power station.
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Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices
Cost of tender documents: NIS 1,930 (inc. VAT)
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1. Compliance with standard ISO 9002 or the Israel Electric Corporation's 02-2E .
2. Samples of each item offered from the know-how supplier or from own production.
3. Test type analysis of the know-how supplier.
4. Know-how agreement with a well-known foreign supplier.

Period of Contract: Two years, with an option to extend for one more year.
Last date for submitting bids for both tenders: May 17, 1998, at 11 a.m.

Additional participation pre-conditions:
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc. to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-returnable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-861-5455/4.

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the Market Research Department at the above address or at the Sales Department, 90 Yigal Allon, Tel Aviv, Ashdar Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4679, 03-565-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).
The Electric Corporation also reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The tenders are available on the Israel Electric Corporation's website: www.israel-electric.co.il

Please note: The offices of the Israel Electric Corporation will be closed for Pessah from April 12 until April 16, 1998. Offices will also be closed on Remembrance Day and Independence Day, April 29-30, 1998.

התומים על שירות טוב יותר

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Livnat names panel to research Internet options

By JUDY SIEGEL

Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday appointed a committee to examine ways of promoting Internet services, which she said have important social and economic implications.

"The Internet is a lever for the spread of information, bringing about a more advanced market, increased sources of knowledge and greater efficiency in processes" of decision making and applying knowledge, she said.

The need for such a committee was raised by the inter-ministerial team that presented last October's report on promoting competition in the telecommunications sector. The pace of development of such services is slower than in leading Western countries, the minister said, even though a significant number of Internet ideas were launched by Israelis.

The committee, to be headed by Avi Rahav (head of the ministry's engineering and licensing branch) will point out activities necessary for speeding up and directing the development of Internet services and to raise Internet infrastructure here so that it is comparable with that abroad. The ministry wants to encourage competition in the field with a minimum of government intervention.

Other members of the committee include Prof. Dani Dolev, Shaul Heitner, Zvi Ilani, Doron Shimoni, Menahem Ohali and Lior Baron. The coordinator will be Rafi Hoyada. Their recommendations are to be presented by the end of August.

Livnat said that the use of the Internet in Israel has reached a "critical mass, and that Intranets are already being used successful by organizations as a way of spreading information internal-



US-Israel forest relations

US Forest Service chief Michael Dombeck plants a tree this week in the JNF's American Independence Park, southwest of Jerusalem. Dombeck, making his first visit here, pledged with JNF world chairman Shlomo Gravetz to strengthen cooperation in soil and water conservation and fighting forest fires. (Joe Malcolm)

World Health Day marked today

By JUDY SIEGEL

The rate of babies born to single women has doubled from 1 percent to 2% between 1982 and 1995, at the same time that the percentage of married women in the population declined from 78.5% to 67.3%. These statistics were issued by the Health Ministry on the eve of World Health Day, which is being marked around the world today.

The World Health Organization chose Safe Motherhood as the theme for this year's event. Although Israel has an outstanding record in this sphere, over 50 million women in the developing world suffer from complications during pregnancy or delivery, many of which lead to long-term, debilitating health problems.

At least 1,600 women die every day – or 585,000 each year – from these complications. According to the WHO, the scandal of maternal deaths is not only a matter of health care, but also an issue of social justice, since the risks of childbirth are not unavoidable but rather injustices that societies must remedy.

Israeli women, Jewish and non-Jewish, are getting married later (on average at 23.6 compared to 21 in 1953. Because of improved birth control methods and stricter criteria used by public abortion committees (and possibly easier access to illegal abortions), the number of legal abortions in 1980 was 21,000, compared to 7,500 in 1987 and 4,066 last year. Virtually all babies are delivered in a hospital.

The ministry said that a number of legislative initiatives are likely to improve women's and children's health: MK Anat Maor is working to increase paid time off for breastfeeding one's babies, and MK Haim Dayan aims at increasing paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 16 weeks. In addition, the ministry is pla ning a program for encouraging breastfeedi Discreet places where women may nurse th babies will be established in shopping cente and public parks.

The ministry is also trying to reduce the pe centage of smokers among women, which on the upswing. In 1958, 13% of women we smokers, compared to 25% today. Over a qu ter of women who light up are heavy smoke consuming over a pack a day. Women try mo often than men to kick the habit, but they' less successful, ministry surveys show. T detrimental effects of passive (sidestrea smoking on pregnant and lactating women a their babies have also been proven. Even sm amounts of nicotine enter mother's milk, anc single day's nursing can cause the baby absorb enough of this addictive drug to ha his health, the ministry said.

هكذا من الأصل

Cabinet panel okays conversion institute

By HERB KEINON

A special cabinet subcommittee yesterday approved establishment of a joint conversion institute run by the three streams of Judaism, formally setting into motion implementation of the Neeman Committee's recommendations on the conversion issue.

The institute is to be set up in Beersheba, which has a large concentration of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and is to be headed by Benjamin Ish-Shalom, a former Hebrew University professor of Jewish philosophy who today heads Beit Morasha of Jerusalem – the Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. The directorate of the institute is to be made up of representatives of Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jewry.

The subcommittee's decision read: "The government views positively the recommendations of the [Neeman] committee, and believes they will enable coming to a suitable solution to the conversion problem. The implementation of the recommendations will bring closer together the different parts of the nation, both in Israel and the Diaspora."

But no sooner had the panel announced its decision, then it was attacked by both haredi and Reform and Conservative spokesmen.

Nevertheless, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who chaired the committee and seemed set on implementing the findings, said he is "satisfied" by the decision.

"There are those on the extreme of both sides who are interested in there being a split and dispute," he said, "but we must make efforts to ensure that the deal is not torpedoed."

The decision to go ahead with the joint institute was made over the objections of Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, who sits on the subcommittee. Other members of the subcommittee are Neeman, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy.

The subcommittee also approved the allocation of funds for establishment of the institute, a move that Porush criticized as giving it government endorsement.

"There is no way the Reform and Conservatives should be involved in the conversion process," Porush said. "They want to be like the gentiles."

The Reform and Conservative movement spokesmen also took issue with the decision to establish the institute, saying it is an attempt to delude the public into thinking that the Neeman recommendations were agreed upon.

Rabbi Uri Regev, head of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center and a member of the Neeman Committee, said that the panel did indeed present recommendations to the prime minister – the first one being the establishment of a joint conversion institute, and the second that the chief rabbis establish special rabbinical courts to perform the actual conversions. But, he said, those recommendations were never signed.

"We were not willing to sign until we had a meeting with the chief rabbis, and were convinced that they also accepted the findings," Regev said.

That meeting never took place, and the chief rabbis – while accepting the idea that the Chief Rabbinate will have sole authority over conversions – rejected the idea of a joint institute, and its inherent recognition of the liberal streams of Judaism.

"It was a package deal," Regev said, "and the rabbinate never accepted the package."

As such, the decision to set up the joint institute has no importance, "because there are no agreed upon Neeman committee recommendations."

Regev said that the liberal movements have no intention, even with the establishment of this institute, of withdrawing their High Court petitions demanding that conversions performed here by Reform or Conservative rabbis be recognized. "We will not do this until the Chief Rabbinate accepts the package," he said.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said recently that the establishment of the joint conversion institute is no real concern of the rabbinate. He has said that the special conversion courts will not take into consideration where a potential convert studied.

Ish-Shalom, the man slated to head the joint institute, which will be under Jewish Agency auspices, did not want to elaborate on how he envisions it will function before he meets with Neeman and the other parties involved. All he would say yesterday was that the material will be presented in a way that will "reflect the traditions, customs, culture, and halachot of the Jewish people."

Zionist youth groups fight for their future



Members of Zionist youth movements protest outside Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Continued from Page 1

"We are pleased that you're here. You are the lifeblood of our Zionist educational movement," Yanowitz said, "and we want to support what you are doing. However, we do have some terribly difficult decisions that we are going to be discussing in there and working on over the next two days. The fact is that we are constrained to make budget cuts within the education department, it's part of the total cuts being made within the Jewish Agency.

"We are going to do everything that we can today and tomorrow, as we came here for this purpose only, to consider your needs and how it fits in to the budget and our priorities."

Those priorities are exactly what the demonstrators were fighting about. Shlomo Margalit, head of Hashomer Hatzair, admitted that the agency has financial problems, but argued over how important the Zionist youth organizations are.

"When you have money problems, then you have to deal with priorities. And the question is: What do you give a high priority and what do you give a low priority? And here is a struggle between Babylon and Jerusalem, because American Jewry don't see the importance of Zionism, the centrality of Israel."

Margalit said he couldn't remember a time when all the different Zionist groups worked together like this, but said he understands how they joined together now "because we're struggling for survival, for the cause, Zionist action."

Mostly, Margalit said, the fight is over the future of Jewish communities worldwide. He cited surveys that showed that over 80 percent of student organization leaders are graduates of youth movements.

"Here we have the future of the Jewish world a generation from now," he said. "Now, do we want to give it a certain shape? We do. We want it to be Zionist. And I think that's the purpose of the Jewish Agency. If not that, what else?"

Warning: Pessah can be hazardous to your health

By JUDY SIEGEL

Gefilte fish can be dangerous to one's health – if you're not careful to protect your hands while descaling St. Peter's fish (which may contain harmful, fast-growing bacteria) or choke on a small bone after it's prepared. Magen David Adom warned the public to take special care that portions of fish fed to young children during the holiday are free of bones.

Eating matza also can cause trouble if you consume an "exaggerated amount" of the dry stuff without drinking fluids to get it down. If someone gets something stuck in his throat, encourage him to cough; if that doesn't work, a number of sharp blows between the shoulder blades should help, as will using the Heimlich Maneuver (pressing below the breastbone in sudden movements, like squeezing a bottle to get a cork loose).

Never blindly insert fingers into the victim's mouth so as not to push the foreign object down further; only if the object is visible should it be removed with a hooked finger.

Kupat Holim Clalit recommends watching calories during Pessah, or else you may find yourself two or three kilograms heavier by the end of next week. Drink water, eat reduced-calorie matza and pick fresh fruits over fattening desserts, says dietician Ziona Abraham. A single regular matza has the calories of two pieces of bread.

Health authorities repeated warnings to parents to keep poisons, medications and other chemicals out of the reach of children during the pre-Pessah cleanup. Don't mix different cleaning materials, as doing so can produce poisonous fumes. The number of accidental child poisonings increases significantly before the holiday.

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The Fund is in the amount of US $12,000,000 (twelve million US dollars), to be transferred to the Fund in annual installments over a period of the next 12 years.

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(a) For *ex gratia* payments, to beneficiaries or successors of beneficiaries under policies issued by "Generali" branches in Central and East Europe before World War II, who have perished in the Holocaust and whose policies have not been paid.

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The Trustees of the Generali Fund In Memory of Generali Insured in East & Central Europe Who Perished In The Holocaust

Date: April 5, 1998

D-53248

It's the economy, Helmut

The formerly communist and currently job-starved east is Kohl's major headache as he campaigns for re-election

By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM

MAGDEBURG, Germany - *Helmut Kohl brags that east* Germans now have the most modern telephone network in the world and that the roads are much better than during the Communist era.

But *there is something east* Germans want more than good connections and smooth rides: Jobs.

Unemployment is a plague in eastern Germany, an ever- worsening nightmare for millions in the region where economic growth remains stubbornly low and memories are still fresh of the time when the Communists ruled and almost no one was without work.

The official jobless rate of 21.3 percent is twice as high as in the affluent west, and Federal Labor Office figures due this week will *probably show it rose further in* March. More than 1.6 million easterners are out of work.

In the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, where Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are facing a humiliating election defeat later this month, the official unemployment rate is higher than anywhere else in Germany — 25% .

"It's nice that everyone has a telephone now and that we can all go on holidays abroad," said Heidi Knake-Werner, a member of parliament from a district just outside the Saxony-Anhalt capital of Magdeburg. "But what good is a phone or a nice holiday if you don't have a job or the money to pay for it?"

Few East Germans had a phone before 1990, in part because the Stasi security police saw it as a communication tool that would be useful in any political uprising. Easterners were also rarely allowed to travel to the West.

Pollsters and political analysts expect voters in Saxony-Anhalt to punish Kohl and the CDU in a state election on April 26 for their misery. Opinion polls forecast the CDU dropping as much as 13 points to about 21% while the *Social* Democrats (SPD) are seen jumping as many as 17 points to 51% .

It is even possible that the reform communist Party of Democratic *Socialism (PDS) will win more* votes in Saxony-Anhalt than the CDU, an ominous signal for Kohl five months before a general election in September. The PDS are polling around 20%.

"Kohl is going to get slammed here," said Knake-Werner, a leader in the PDS who represents the town of Aschersleben in the Bonn parliament. "He broke too many promises. There is no flourishing landscape, and unemployment has not been halved. He's made easterners feel like the outcasts of the nation."

Random interviews with more *than a dozen unemployed people in* Magdeburg confirmed the widespread frustration.

They all remember Kohl's 1990 pledge that there would be "flourishing landscapes" in the east within a few years and his more recent vow to halve unemployment by 2000. Several said they are simply tired of feeling like second-class Germans, earning lower wages and working longer hours than western counterparts.

"I choke up with anger whenever I hear Kohl claiming unification has brought us advantages," said Manfred Ewald, a 38-year-old gardener who lost his job seven years ago. "It's Kohl's fault no one has a *job. There aren't any jobs left.*"

Standing outside the Magdeburg labor office, Ewald turned nostalgic for East Germany's last Stalinist ruler, Erich Honecker, as he peered through thick black-rimmed glasses smudged by dirt and ran rough fingers through an unwashed red beard.

"The wessies (west Germans) brought the curse of unemployment upon us," Ewald said. "They destroyed our industry to wipe out competition. Life was better under Honecker. We had jobs. No one was thrown out on the street. I had a job I loved."

Pierre Fahsel is a 20-year-old construction worker who comes to the labor office looking for a job every week. His parents moved to west Germany, and because he couldn't afford an apartment, he has lived for a year in an unheated shed.

"It's so boring not having a job," Fahsel said. "It's the same thing every day. I'd much rather have a job than hang around wasting time. I keep trying to tell myself there must be a job for me somewhere. I'm only 20 years old."

The gap between east and west is now growing rather than shrinking. According to job growth estimates for 1998, about 100,000 new jobs will be created in west Germany *this year, while the east will shed* 65,000.

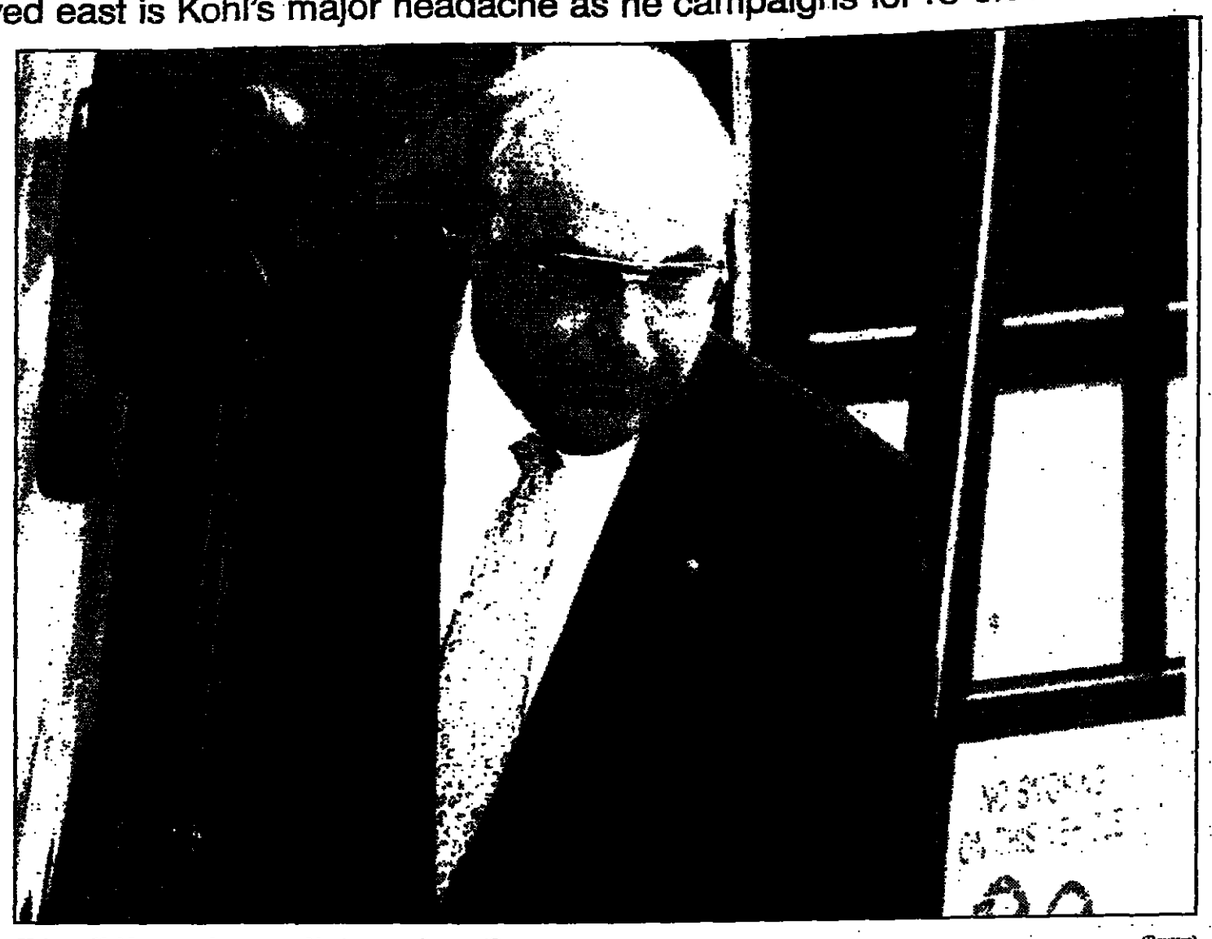
The headline unemployment statistics tell only part of the story. Economists say the unofficial rate is above 21%, probably over 30%, and they predict it will rise further.

Magdeburg labor office director Wolfgang Meyer said there was only a faint hope that the unemployment rate would begin to fall anytime soon. Jobs in antiquated factories were still being eliminated faster than new positions were being created, he said.

Magdeburg, a city of 285,000, was once a center of industry in East Germany with big steel factories, a diesel motor plant, a metal*working factory and a machinery*making plant.

"The rebuilding of a modern industry is taking longer than expected," said Meyer.

"The unemployment rate will continue to rise in small increments in 1998, but we hope to narrow the *gap this year between the number* of jobs being eliminated and the number of new jobs being created," he said.



Helmut Kohl out on the stump: Next stop retirement? (Reuters)

That news is cold comfort for Manfred Graeger, a 53-year-old skilled metalworker who has had only sporadic employment as a *night watchman since he lost his* job at the Karl-Marx-Werk metals factory eight years ago.

"I don't have a prayer of finding a job in my profession again," said Graeger. "I'd be happy right now to have any job. The wessies came here with all their big promises. They pulled the wool over our eyes. They just wanted to rip us off and shut our industry down. We were too dumb to see it happening."

Like many easterners, Graeger said he was once a big fan of Kohl for putting the mighty deutschemarks in his bank account in exchange for the nearly worthless East German marks.

"But now he has turned into a megalomaniac, and I hope he gets cut back down to size in Saxony-Anhalt," Graeger said.

"Instead of worrying so much about the euro, he should get his own house in order first. He should take a good look at the mess he caused in east Germany."

(Reuters)

America's own Queen Victoria

By MARY GABRIEL

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Some might think being the first woman to run for president of the United States, or *the first woman to address* a committee of Congress, or the first woman Wall Street broker would ensure a spot in history.

But Victoria Claflin Woodhull, who by 1872 had accomplished all three, has been ignored in most US history books – and even in most *anthologies of important American* women. The reason is simple: When the pillars of the US women's suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, wrote the definitive six-volume history of the movement in 1881, Woodhull did not even earn a mention in the *index.*

The woman who was hailed as a "queen" by supporters but denounced as "Mrs. Satan" by critics, was written out of history by Anthony and Stanton because of her radical social theories and her scandalous lifestyle.

Now, 70 years after her death, Woodhull's life and work are undergoing a fresh evaluation, in part because the positions she championed in the late 19th century are *once again at the forefront of* social and political debate.

As early as 1871, Woodhull proposed the abolition of the death penalty, the establishment of a tribunal to settle international disputes, tax reform and government-supported education in the United *States.*

On women's issues, she called for protection against spousal abuse, education on birth control to prevent unwanted pregnancies, a guarantee of abortion rights and equal treatment for women in the work place. Her forward-thinking platform was based largely on her own difficult life.

SHE was born Victoria Claflin in Homer, Ohio, in 1838, the sixth of 10 children. Her father, Rueben Buckman Claflin, was a forger, a thief and a suspected arsonist. Her mother, Roxanna Claflin, was a religious zealot given to bouts of lunacy.

When Victoria was 14, and her younger sister Tennessee just seven, their father set them up in business as *clairvoyants, telling fortunes for* $1 per visit. Their earnings helped to support their quarrelsome and demanding family.

Victoria took the only socially acceptable route to escape from her family when she was just 15 – marriage. But the man she married, nearly twice her age, was an alcoholic and later a morphine addict. Within a year they were broke, the future looked dim and she had given birth to a mentally retarded son.

Woodhull said years later it was the birth of her son that awakened her political instincts. She concluded her child's condition was the result of her husband's drinking and she vowed to "ask from every platform on the face of the earth" that women be educated not to enter unwise marriages and that they have the right to cut the bonds that tied them to a husband they did not love.

Her resolve increased after she went back to work as a clairvoyant in the final years of the US Civil War and heard tales of domestic misery from men and women who sought advice on their earthly problems from voices beyond the grave.

By 1868, Victoria Woodhull was in New York, having divorced her husband and married a Civil War veteran who shared her political goals.

With the help of millionaire industrialist Cornelius Vanderbilt, who sought her advice as a clairvoyant, Woodhull and her sister Tennessee set up as *Wall Street brokers. From* her Broad Street office she launched a newspaper, *Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly*, and a presidential campaign.

The move was precipitous at best. Not only did she lack political experience and support, as a woman she was not entitled to vote and, at 32, she was not old enough to run.

Initially Woodhull's presidential bid won support from the established women's movement and its leaders, Anthony and Stanton. She also had the support of the fledgling US labor movement as well as the spiritualist movement, which in the second half of the 19th century was a safe haven for many reform-minded individuals.

But by May 1872, when Woodhull was nominated for the presidency by the Equal Rights Party with Frederick Douglass, the former abolitionist leader and son of a black slave, as her running mate, her base of support had begun to erode.

Woodhull used her political prominence in part to champion free love, which she argued would assure women equal rights in the domestic sphere by taking away a husband's "ownership" of his wife.

Critics charged she was promoting promiscuity and press reports seemed to support that claim. A series of court dramas disclosed details about Woodhull's private life including the salacious fact that she shared her New York mansion with her first husband and her second husband. There were also rumors she had taken a prominent journalist as a lover.

Woodhull retaliated against the bad press she received by pointing out the hypocrisy of a society that condemned her for publicly stating her beliefs but protected those who practiced free love in private while condemning it publicly.

To make her case, she exposed in her newspaper a love affair between the most prominent minister in the United States, Henry Ward Beecher, and one of his parishioners, Elizabeth Tilton.

On election day, Nov. 5, 1872, when Woodhull was making history as the first woman to run for the presidency, she was in a New York City jail on a charge of sending obscene material through the mail. Prosecutors charged that her published story about the Beecher affair violated federal obscenity law.

Woodhull's political career was over. After repeated arrests, imprisonment and trials related to the Beecher case, she divorced her second husband and left the United States in 1877 for Great Britain.

The woman who once called marriage a "hot little hell" promptly found herself a third husband in London. John Biddulph Martin, the co-heir to Martin's Bank, one of Britain's oldest financial institutions, offered Woodhull the emotional and financial support and security she did not find in marriages No. 1 and No. 2.

Woodhull settled into a quiet life in London until her husband's death in 1895 and an even quieter life in the hamlet of Bredon's Norton in Worcestershire until her own death in 1927 at the age of 88. Her ashes were scattered in the North Atlantic, but a red votive candle still illuminates a tribute to her in Tewkesbury Abbey.

Woodhull said in 1874 she did not expect to be recognized by her contemporaries but she hoped that "these young, for whom I plead, will in after years bless Victoria Woodhull for daring to speak for their salvation." (LA Times)

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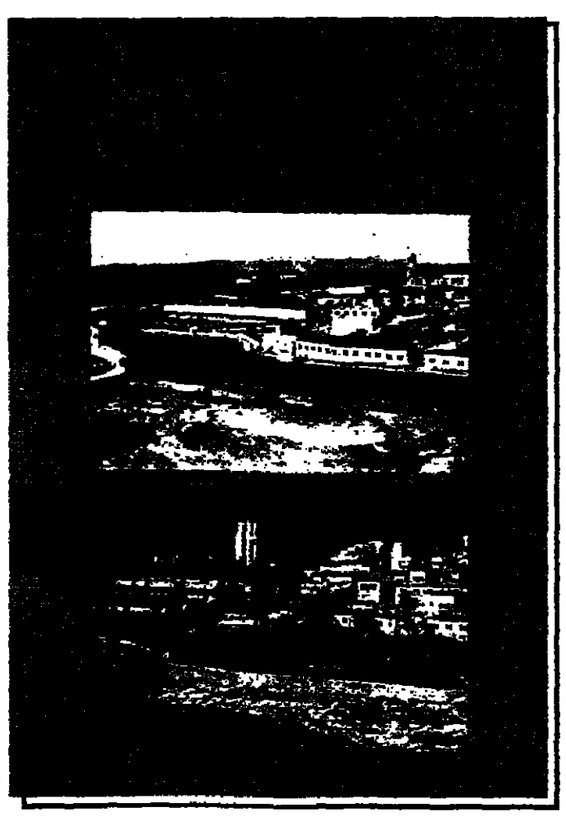
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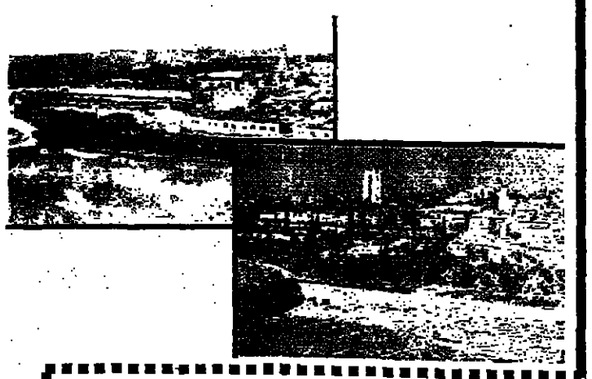


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Seoul agrees to talks with North Korea

By JANE LEE

SEOUL (Reuters) – South Korea yesterday agreed to talks with the North, paving the way for the first possible direct meeting between the rivals since the death of Pyongyang's "Great Leader" Kim Il-sung in 1994.

North Korea on Saturday proposed vice-ministerial level talks with South Korea this Saturday in Beijing to discuss mutual interests, including fertilizer aid to help overcome acute food shortages.

"We agree with the April 11 date you suggested, but taking into consideration the symbolic meaning that this is a new meeting between the South and North governments, we feel it would be better to hold the talks at your convenience at Panmunjom or another place on the Korean peninsula," a telephone message sent to the head of the North Korea's Red Cross said.

"We will send a five-member delegation led by the vice minister of unification to discuss ways to improve South-North relations, the issue of fertilizer and other co-interests," Seoul's message said.

A Unification Ministry official said Seoul had not ruled out talks in Beijing, but preferred to hold them in Korea.

Such a meeting would be the first direct talks between the rivals in years, though the two Koreas have kept an open dialogue through four-way peace talks in Geneva, which were also attended by officials from China and the US, and through meetings of their respective Red Cross organizations in Beijing.

North Korean watchers said Pyongyang may be testing President Kim Dae-jung's administration, which kicked off in February with a more open policy toward the North.

Pyongyang watchers were generally positive that direct dialogue could resume, but most questioned North Korea's motives.

"The talks could be a link to future relations, but it's still too early to expect anything like an exchange of special envoys to result from the meeting," said Park Young-ho, director of policy studies at the Korea Institute for National Unification, a think-tank for the Unification Ministry.

"North Korea has most likely suggested the talks because it is in need of fertilizers, as it needs to sow seeds in the spring," said Park.. "It is testing the waters to see how much it can get from the new administration." Kim made it clear from the start of his term that inter-Korean relations would be expanded. He said business and politics between the two Koreas would be separated to prevent investment opportunities from being stymied by politics.

The new government has also been pushing for reuniting families separated by the division. North and South Korea are technically still at war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce and not a peace agreement.

Separated family members have been estimated at about 10 million and Koreans cannot travel across the border or correspond without prior government approval.

But another North Korean watcher in a government agency voiced concern that Seoul was rushing the talks.

"North Korea is holding on to the handle of the sword and we are hanging on to the tip," said the official who asked not to be identified.

"We have been unofficially pushing the North for talks. If they were really serious about talks, they would have responded to the president's inauguration speech." Kim in his speech had proposed a summit meeting with the North, as well as exchange of special envoys.

The official said Pyongyang so far has made no response to the president's speech.



Welcome to Paris
French President Jacques Chirac (right) greets Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji at the Elysee Palace yesterday. (AP)

Yeltsin, MPs to discuss PM's appointment

By ANDREI KHALIP

MOSCOW (Reuters) – President Boris Yeltsin was spending yesterday at his Gorky-9 country residence outside Moscow preparing for today's "round-table" talks with parliamentary and trade union leaders, the Itar-Tass news agency said.

Yeltsin hopes his controversial choice for prime minister will be approved by the end of this week by the communist-dominated parliament, but he may need to apply carrots and sticks to win their backing at today's meeting.

Despite adopting a more conciliatory tone towards his opponents, Yeltsin has made clear he will not compromise over his nominee for prime minister, the little-known, 35-year-old technocrat Sergei Kiriyenko.

Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky was quoted as saying Yeltsin hoped the talks would result in a declaration of support for Kiriyenko's candidacy.

The talks are aimed at building a consensus on the formation of Russia's new government and its program, but any recommendations approved are non-binding on Yeltsin.

A Kremlin statement said Yeltsin would make opening and closing remarks at the meeting, which is expected to start around midday.

The speakers of the two chambers of parliament and Kiriyenko, energy minister in the previous cabinet, were due to address the meeting, which the leaders of the main parliamentary factions also were attending.

The State Duma lower house of parliament is expected to debate and vote on his nomination on Friday.

The talks aim to pacify the communist opposition, which has the largest number of seats in the Duma and has said Kiriyenko is too young and inexperienced to head the government. Their leader Gennady Zyuganov, who will attend the talks, has said he is prepared to risk triggering early Duma elections in order to block Kiriyenko.

If deputies rejected Yeltsin's nominee three times he would have no constitutional choice but to dissolve the Duma. Yeltsin has already indicated he will call new elections if need be when he first put forward Kiriyenko after sacking veteran premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

But other powerful Duma factions, including Chernomyrdin's centrist Our Home is Russia bloc and the ultra-nationalist Liberal-Democratic Party, are likely to support Kiriyenko.

Last week the communist camp hinted at a compromise when Duma speaker Gennady Seleznyov, himself a communist, said he welcomed Kiriyenko's suggestion that industrial policy should have more prominence and such measures should be given a chance.

And with attention increasingly focused on the next presidential poll due in July 2000, neither Yeltsin nor the communists are keen to fight parliamentary elections 18 months ahead of schedule, political analysts said.

The government and the International Monetary Fund may agree on Russia's economic program for 1998 this week, paving the way for payment of a $670 million tranche of a $9.2 billion three-year IMF loan.

Kiriyenko's pledge on Saturday to pay off billions of roubles owed to public sector workers as early as this week may help undermine the opposition ahead of union-led strikes and marches set for April 9. The trade unions want to draw attention to mounting wage arrears.

Yeltsin suffered a setback yesterday on another front when Constitutional Court ruled that the president could not block laws approved twice by parliament. The ruling effectively halts the Kremlin's plans to return wartime "booty" art to Germany. Parliament is strongly opposed to plans to repatriate art treasures seized by the Red Army during World War II.

The Constitutional Court might also rule this week on another politically controversial issue – whether Yeltsin can run for another presidential term. Interfax news agency quoted one of the court's judges, Vladimir Strekozov, as saying the body could review the matter as early as tomorrow.

Yeltsin, reelected president in July 1996, is barred by the constitution from running for a third term of office. But some maintain that his current term is only his first under the post-Soviet constitution introduced in 1993.

Northern Irish rivals await peace blueprint

By MARTIN COWLEY

BELFAST (Reuters) – Northern Ireland's political foes yesterday awaited a peace document that could unlock the door to a momentous settlement to three decades of violence in the British-ruled province.

Parties riven by age-old pro-British and pro-Irish loyalties went into a final round of negotiations saying they expected chairman George Mitchell to offer a draft agreement ahead of Thursday's deadline.

"I am looking forward to a busy, tough hard week, but I am sure it will be productive," Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam told reporters, reflecting the views of most parties.

"I would like to think that during the course of today, the draft paper will be before the parties," said Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews. "I think the determined leadership of Sen. Mitchell will produce it."

Mitchell, a former US senator who has steered the stormy talks for 21 months, set the April 9 deadline two weeks ago to inject unavoidable urgency into the faltering talks.

"Certainly the paper must be a draft agreement. It can't be a series of options," declared pro-British politician David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party.

Difficulties between the governments of Britain and Ireland and the main parties over plans for a new Northern Ireland parliament and its link to a proposed all-Ireland ministerial council held up the paper last Friday.

The weekend brought a flurry of negotiations and a narrowing of some of the divisions, according to political sources.

Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland, sponsors of talks aimed at getting feuding parties to agree to new political structures, may fly in later this week for the last phase of the process.

News broke that Ahern's elderly mother died suddenly of a heart attack overnight, but Andrews said the Irish leader would continue to concentrate on the quest for a lasting settlement.

"I would think in his deepest sorrow, it would not deflect the Taoiseach [Irish Prime Minister] from his duty," Andrews told reporters.

The venue is in a drab modern office complex in a corner of parkland at Stormont, the traditional seat of British rule, in east Belfast.

"People are going in today with a feeling of hope and a strong feeling that we are in the process of making history together," Andrews said.

Mowlam and Andrews spearhead their governments' day-to-day role in the talks.

Eight parties representing Protestant unionist and Roman Catholic nationalist voters are taking part along with the ministers.

Hard-line dissidents on both sides have staged a series of attacks since Christmas aimed at derailing the talks. They object to cease-fires by the province's main Protestant and Catholic-backed guerrilla organizations.

Politicians going into the talks said they wanted a deal, but it was clear too that wide gulfs had yet to be bridged. Mitchell's paper is expected to be his best guess of what he thinks is agreeable.

Unionists, who are a 60 percent majority, want to bolster rule from Britain and ensure that a Northern Ireland parliament is not dictated to by an all-Ireland ministerial council.

The 40 percent nationalist minority wants a strong cross-border council that would create a new era of island-wide cooperation and reflect their Irish identity.

The chairman of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, was optimistic that outstanding problems could be overcome.

"The question is whether they can be sorted out in time for the talks deadline itself, but yes, I believe they can be sorted out," Mitchel McLaughlin said.

David Trimble, leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, was far less confident that a deal could be struck.

"Making predictions is foolish. None of us can foretell the future," he said.

The main barriers to a deal are the role of new all-Ireland structures, the powers of a new parliament under continued British rule, and changes promised by Dublin to its constitutional claims to the North.

US energy sec'y quits

By JOSEPH SCHUMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Secretary Federico Pena, the highest-ranking Hispanic in the US government, is quitting in June, aides and White House officials said yesterday.

Pena, who served as transportation secretary in US President Bill Clinton's first term, submitted his letter of resignation yesterday morning.

Pena, 51, gave no reason for his departure, although he had expressed an interest in leaving Washington when Clinton finished his first term in early 1997.

The former Denver mayor agreed to take over the sprawling Energy Department for one year.

An aide said he made the decision to resign over the weekend.

The aide, who asked not to be identified, refused to discuss Pena's motive for leaving. "He needs to explain this in his own words," the aide said.

At the Transportation Department, Pena ordered small airlines to follow the same strict safety rules as major carriers. He also sharply reduced the size of the giant agency.

But Pena was widely criticized for defending ValuJet after a 1996 crash in the Florida Everglades. The airline was later grounded for a time because of concerns about its maintenance operation.

Pena also was the focus of two Justice Department probes, but no evidence of wrongdoing was found in either case.

Clinton moves to ban imports of assault rifles

Ban aimed specifically at Uzis, AK-47s

By SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vowing "to do our best to keep our people alive," US President Bill Clinton closed yesterday a loophole through which thousands of foreign-made assault rifles found their way into the US despite a 1994 ban.

With the White House Rose Garden and a wall of uniformed police officers as a backdrop, Clinton issued an executive order that permanently barred importation of 58 assault weapons that were modified for sport shooting in order to get around the ban.

Most of the affected guns are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi semiautomatic weapons.

Clinton hailed an overall drop in violent crime since he took office in 1993, but said much work remains in preventing violence as long as gun manufacturers "can make minor cosmetic modifications to weapons of war" and send them onto the streets of America.

Speaking directly to gun makers, the president added, "You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way."

Clinton's order follows a Treasury Department review of 59 weapons, done in consultation with state game and law enforcement agencies, hunting guides, and publications and groups devoted to hunting and shooting. The review determined that many of the guns in question do not meet requirements under federal law for import for sporting purposes, mainly because they can be fitted with large-capacity magazines.

In a report last December, the Congressional Research Service said Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms interprets sporting purposes so broadly that many of the weapons allowed entry have features not needed for sport use, such as semi-automatic fire, grips for one-handed combat shooting and large ammunition clips.

Under a 1968 federal law, foreign firearms brought into the US must be for sporting purposes only, such as target shooting, skeet and trap shooting, and hunting.

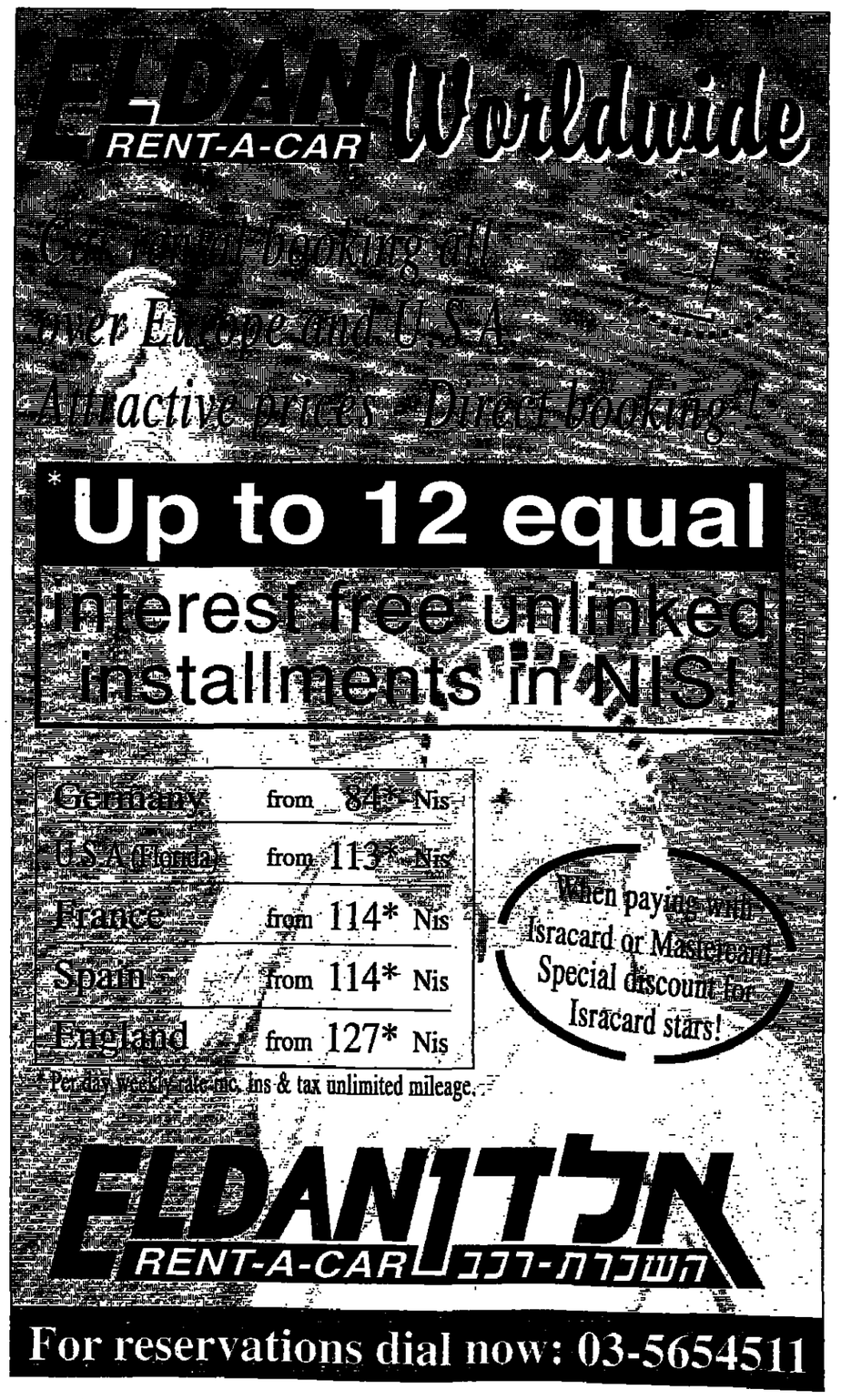
A 1989 law bans shipment of assault weapons into the US, with an exemption if they are used for sport.

Since then, many manufacturers have altered the appearance of their weapons to give them a sporty look that gets them past the ban.

Last year, firearms importers obtained permits to ship in nearly 600,000 altered guns, and applications were pending for an additional 1 million. Some 20,000 of the 600,000 weapons already have entered the country.

Clinton's order comes at the urging of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who asked him to block the export to this country of thousands of modified military-style assault weapons.

The guns, known as the Uzi American and the Galil Sporter, were modified for sport. ATF officials have said the guns remain capable of firing rapid rounds of ammunition but were approved for import because they were not found to violate the 1994 assault weapons ban.



هكذا من الأصل

Europe's Hapsburg dynasty rises anew

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH and DEAN E. MURPHY

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Let's assume for a moment, just for the fun of it, that a direct descendant of George III has shown up in Los Angeles. George III, you'll recall, was on the throne when the American Colonies won their independence from Britain.

Now, suppose this royal newcomer just happens to use his famous ancestor's name: George of Great Britain. The first thing he does when he hits town is take an executive position at one of the major studios, a job he promptly turns into a bully pulpit for his political views. He marries an imported German duchess; next, he is named a US ambassador at large. People start in with "Hail the king!" when he cruises Rodeo Drive. When journalists invite his views on the resurrection of the monarchy, he responds with a tantalizing "Never say never." Wouldn't all that strike you as just the tiniest bit odd? In fact, that's more or less the spectacle that Hungarians have been enjoying in their newly democratic homeland ever since Gyorgy von Hapsburg blew into town and started carving out niches for himself in the nation's business, diplomatic and society circles. Gyorgy, you see, is a member of the House of Hapsburg, one of the greatest sovereign dynasties of Europe until its empire was dismantled eight decades ago.

And it's not only 33-year-old Gyorgy: From Scandinavia to the southernmost reaches of the changing and unsettled continent that is post-Cold War Europe, Hapsburgs are turning up in interesting and unexpected places, positing the idea that their family's imperial history holds answers to some of the most pressing questions of modern times.

Hapsburgs are keeping up the age-old family tradition of strategic marriage, tantalizing monarchical revivalists and striving through electoral politics to shape the development of the continent, which is inching toward unification.

"My brother is doing the same that I am doing," Gyorgy said, referring to Karl Hapsburg-Lothringen, 37, who represents Austria in the European Parliament. "My sister is doing the same in Sweden. If everything goes right, she will be elected to the European Parliament.

"My sister in Spain is very much interested in local politics." It may be a measure of just how awful things were in Eastern Europe under communism, and the Nazi occupation that preceded it, that many people here are embracing a scion of the so-called "dual monarchy" that, from Vienna, kept Hungary very much in a second-class role during its reign. But embrace Gyorgy they do.

"Whenever the prince"— Gyorgy, that is — "comes to the Buda castle district, people begin shouting, 'Hail the king! Hail the king!' " said Istvan Kiszely, vice mayor of a Budapest borough. "People do say it, even though it is never reported in the press."

Back in their imperial heyday, the Hapsburgs ruled across this continent and beyond, from what is now Ukraine to deep into Croatia.

The Holy Roman Empire was once headed by a Hapsburg. The family threw its weight around as far away as Latin America, thanks to an Iberian branch. If certain buildings in Mexico City look like weird transplants from Old Vienna, they were meant to: Maximilian, who ruled Mexico from 1864 to 1867, was a Hapsburg.

All that power and grandeur imploded in 1914, when Gyorgy von Hapsburg's ancestor the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo. After the cascade of repercussions we now call World War I, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was dismantled by the Treaty of Versailles. Subsequent attempts by Hapsburgs to restore it failed — otherwise, today Gyorgy von Hapsburg would be second in line to the double-eagle throne.

Instead, he is second in line at MTM-SBS Television, Hungary's first nationwide private television network. Gyorgy is also director of MTM Communications, the biggest film producer and distributor in Central Europe.

A fit life for a commoner in democratic Hungary? Well ... not quite. Although Hapsburg works for a living, his day-to-day activities exude an unmistakable aroma of power and politics.

There he is, amid the "Wheel of Fortune"and "Let's Make a Deal"reruns that pay the rent at MTM, stumping on the airwaves for NATO membership for this former Warsaw Pact state. Hungary's formerly Communist prime minister has named him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, charged with ensuring early membership for this country in the European Union as it expands into the former East Bloc.

"You don't have to be emperor to be useful," said Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, the standard reference work on royal bloodlines in Europe. Brooks-Baker, a monarchist, approves thoroughly of the Hapsburgs and their efforts to shape post-imperial Europe.

"They feel they have a calling, the way the priest has a calling," he said. "Public service does not require a throne." Nor is it just the monarchists who appreciate the Hapsburg touch.

Last fall, when Gyorgy von Hapsburg wed Germany's bejeweled Duchess Eilika von Oldenburg here, former senior Communists rushed to the basilica to pay tribute, rubbing shoulders most incongruously with the many crownless European monarchs and landless grandees among the guests.

"Never say never," archduke-cum-media-exec Hapsburg says when asked if he can envision himself as Hungary's king. "But not in the next 20 or 30 years." As early as 1990, amid the ruins of communism in Eastern Europe, there were rumors that the Hapsburg family patriarch would return in triumph as president of Hungary. Otto von Hapsburg, 85, is the eldest son of King Karl VI of Hungary, who was also Emperor Karl I of Austria. Otto was just 6 when the empire collapsed; the family was banished, and he spent a childhood wandering from Switzerland to Madeira to Spain.

"It was almost a gypsy life," he recalled, interviewed in Strasbourg, France, in his small, shared office at the European Parliament, where he has represented the German state of Bavaria since 1979. The family was so destitute after its banishment that Otto waited until he was 50 to marry, Brooks-Baker said.

"Not many people have a thousand-year-old history," Gyorgy von Hapsburg said. "I have a thousand-year history, and I know what my ancestors did. And I know that carrying the name of Hapsburg, this very prestigious name, gives you a lot of possibilities, but it also gives you a big obligation."

In 1995, Gyorgy von Hapsburg became director of MTM Communications, and in December 1996, Socialist Prime Minister Gyula Horn named him the ambassador at large for European integration. It was the first time a Hapsburg had held any public office in Hungary since 1918.

Horn, who served as foreign minister in Hungary's last Communist government, has said he has no problems with vesting state power in a former class enemy. He said the young crownless archduke's connections and polish will "help to enhance the reputation and image of Hungary." Nor does Gyorgy von Hapsburg feel troubled about receiving his marching orders from a former top Communist.

"I am not helping Communists," he said. "I am not helping conservatives. I am helping this country."

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حكذا من الأصل

An everyday fairy tale

OPERA REVIEW

By MAXIM REIDER

La Cenerentola of the New Israeli Opera is a pure winner and great fun for the whole family. The Italian director Giancarlo del Monaco takes this little gem for what it is – dramma giocoso – i.e., comic drama – never trying to force upon it psychological depths but revealing a lot of wisdom, which is characteristic of Rossini.

For him, *La Cenerentola* is great music theater of the end of the Baroque epoch, seen through the eyes of the modern director. Together with set and costume designer Tony Businger, Del Monaco creates the magic world of theater within theater.

Del Monaco reads the score and translates it into stage language – in both overall concept and detail. In his directorial vision, love at first

LA CENERENTOLA
NIO, TAPAC
April 3

sight is already a fairy tale in itself, which flourishes from the simplest material of everyday life. He accentuates the role of philosopher Alidoro (bass Donato di Stefano), who governs the personages, freezes or speeds the action, pulls the strings and, with a simple wave of his magic wand, solves all problems.

This device comes to a climax in the sextet of stupefaction, when the characters repeat the same words again and again, turning around and jumping like puppets.

The stage movement does not disturb the music nor does it contradict the director's goal of telling the story, written in the score.

On the contrary, everything on the stage transpires in full accordance with the music. Sets of the crumbling Baron's house are quite depressing; those of the Prince's palace are glorious; the attire of Cenerentola's stepsisters is pretentious and tasteless – like them; the mounted escort, galloping to the sound of the music, is hysterically funny; and the golden carriage will undoubtedly take the impoverished girl straight to a happy ending.

As for the ensembles, their singing and rhythmical movement merge in one exciting whole. And Del Monaco's impeccable taste never fails.

This time the NIO casted a solid international team of soloists with not a single weak link, thus amalgamating invited artists with the best local forces, among whom mezzo Susanna Poretsky (coquettish fool Tisbe) reveals a new facet of her talent, emerging as a wonderful singing comic actress.

The rest is no less impressive vocally and dramatically. Sharon Rostorf is stupid Clorinda, Alberto Rinaldi is a complacent idiot Don Magnifico, Jorge Lopez-Yanes is the prince in love, while Jose Fardilha is his jolly valet Dandini, who is able to take a detached view of the situation and, if possible, to take advantage of it.

But it's the stunning beauty Vivica Genaux in the lead who steals the show.

With her warm, powerful and lush mezzo, she performs coloraturas with impeccable agility and depicts the magic transformation of Angelina from a poor servant at the beginning of the opera, dreaming of a man who will appreciate her virtues, to the noble and forgiving Queen in the finale.

Still, in many ways, this is maestro Alberto Zedda's night. He presents variegated characters, creates perfectly balanced vocal ensembles, and conducts with a smile on his face, making magic with the orchestra. And the grateful Rishon Lezion Symphony responds to his light and precise baton with joy, breezing through Rossini's music, replete with virmoso solos and sounds as never before.



As Angelina, Vivica Genaux steals the show with her warm, powerful and lush mezzo. (Gadi Dagon)

The only verdict

CONCERT ROUNDUP

In this Ninth International Artur Rubinstein Competition, the jury showed a complete lack of perception in the choice of pianists who moved from round one to round two and those who who moved to the final round. But after its initial relatively strange choices, the jury basically reached the only possible verdict after the final round. The battle between the two female pianists for third place was

RUBINSTEIN COMPETITION
Final Stage
Mann Auditorium, March 29-April 1

the only one that did not end in a clear-cut way. Russian Margarita Shevchenko, one of the brightest pianists in the first round (she even got the special Chopin prize for a work performed at that stage) was less impressive later on. Her final stage concerti suggested that she is a mature and impressive pianist who lacks charisma, style and individuality.

Korea's Jong-Gyung Park is a totally different matter. Some thought she was the hottest thing in the competition, but I failed to be impressed. Granted, there was a lot of power in her playing, not to mention technical virtuosity. But there was very little soul in the performance, not to mention sense of style. Her Mozart playing (bad choice) was more in the style of Beethoven, and her Chopin (another questionable choice for her style and abilities) was more in Liszt-like.

Judging by the second-prize winner, Vitaly Samoshko, this competition was relatively mediocre. Samoshko is a very good pianist no doubt, but not of the caliber of major competition winners. His performance in the finals was impressive but never beguiling or captivating, never revealing unprecedented talent or interpretation.

But then came the Ukrainian 18-year-old Igor Tchetuev and stole the show – and the bank. There had been rumors that the first prize would not be awarded this time around, but Tchetuev, at least in the final round, was far beyond the others and worthy of the award.

The six finalists played 10 different concerti but when it came down to the wire, it was Park vs. Tchetuev in Chopin's first piano concerto. And here there was no contest at all.

Where Park was aggressive and powerful, Tchetuev was lyric and poetic; where the Korean emphasized personal virtuosity, Tchetuev went with the musical flow, showcasing his extreme musicianship and where Park banged on the piano mercilessly, Tchetuev stroked it with gentle colorful brushes, and that made all the difference.

Michael Ajzenstadt

THIRTY premieres of contemporary works, including 20 Israeli ones, in celebration of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy's 50th anniversary, were presented during its international symposium on The Art of Composition towards the 21st Century, attended by 27 guest participants from 12 countries.

Among the Israeli pieces, Ari Ben-Shabetai's *Hora* for two pianos and percussion (Liora Ziv-Li, Allan Sternfield, Tomer Yariv, Oron Schwartz) seemed to parody the folk-dance, only more sarcastically, tearing it mercilessly to barely recognizable pieces.

In Yinam Leef's *In Memoriam* for flute (Michael Melzer), narrow intervals dominating its outer parts

JERUSALEM RUBIN ACADEMY SYMPOSIUM CONCERTS
Premieres by contemporary composers
Wise Auditorium, March 29 - April 2

convey profound grief, evoked by Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, framing an episode of desperate agitation.

A wistful glance back at Romanticism is cast by Haim Permont's *Impromptu* for piano (Zecharia Plavin), refusing to consider that this time-honored style is long gone.

Trumpet and cello (Ken Cox, Cornelius Faur) seemed an unlikely couple for a piece called "*Intimacy*," unless the inverted commas were intended as an integral part of the title, thus making the composer's presumably ironic concept of intimacy unmistakably clear.

The violin and the cello (Moti Schmidt, Shmuel Magen) in Haim Alexander's attractive *Three Bagatelles* seemed to be engaged in a lively dialogue.

In Menahem Zur's *Conversations 4*, on the other hand, it seemed as if the trumpet and piano (Richard Berlin, Bruce Levi) were each talking to himself in an anguished outcry of two individualists striving desperately for communication, till finally finding a common language.

A sincere attempt at sometimes juxtaposing and sometimes blending heterogeneous sonorities, on the instrumental as well as the stylistic and ethnic levels, was made by Michael Wolpe in *Memorial Songs 1997*, to lyrics by Elisha Porat. Such a significant text deserves a thinning out of the instruments to let the voice (Maureen Nehdar) become intelligible.

Ury Eppstein

AN ALL too rare opportunity for enjoying Ina Joost's solo playing was offered by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 6 in Frank Martin's *Ballade* for cello and orchestra.

There was nothing showy about Joost's playing. Completely absorbed in the music, she conveyed the profoundly meditative ambience of the work's beginning,

JSO
Works by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Martin
Jerusalem Theater, April 1

becoming more and more agitated, until its conclusion in a delicate, poetic mood. Sincere devotion to the composer's intentions is what made Joost's performance so captivating and caused the usually reserved Jerusalem audience to call her back for three curtain calls.

Conductor Yeruham Scharovsky held the orchestra in firm control in Schubert's *Unfinished* and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, displaying praiseworthy attention to significant details. Tchaikovsky's abundantly changing moods, from emotional lyricism to forceful outbursts and folksy playfulness, were elicited with elasticity and vitality.

Ury Eppstein

MOODS change from lamentations to *Song of Songs* selections, amusing pieces of the Renaissance and, for diversity's sake, some 20th-century works, in the Henry's Eight vocal group's performance, directed by Jonathan Brown, in the Authentica series.

The clarity of voice, impeccable transparency, and the faithfulness to style and refined musicality amounted to a remarkable artistic achievement of vocal culture.

HENRY'S EIGHT
Works from the Renaissance and the 20th century
Jerusalem Theater, March 28

Exercising noble restraint in laments by Tallis, Josquin des Prez and Gombert, and avoiding emotional emphases, the singers concentrated on the music itself in all its purity to let it convey its sorrowful message.

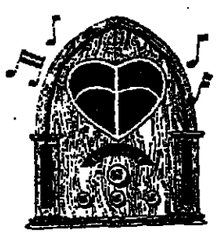
David's Lament on Absalom by Gombert was an outstandingly moving experience. Entertaining pieces by Henry VIII and his anonymous contemporaries were rescued from oblivion with all their polished lightheartedness. Jannequin's highly intricate *La guerre* was performed with all the wit that an apparently noncombatant composer is capable of.

Among the newer pieces, the unpredictabilities of Poulenc's *Prayers of St. Francis* and the playfulness of Debussy's *When I heard the Tambourine* were particularly delightful.

Ury Eppstein

Aretha Franklin's gilded rose

In Tune



By David Brinn

What have they done to her song? The marketing plan was to take one legendary singer, Aretha Franklin, surround her with hip-hopping hit-

A ROSE IS STILL A ROSE
Aretha Franklin (Hed Artzi)

THE CHURCH WITH ONE BELL
John Martyn (NMC)

ROBYN IS HERE
Robyn (Hed Artzi)

makers like Puff Daddy and The Fugees' Lauryn Hill, along with longtime collaborator Narada Michael Walden, and slide their way into young hearts and pocketbooks.

Sounds great. But from concept to execution, a wrong turn was taken, and *A Rose Is Still A Rose* is the sleepwalking result. Part of the blame must lie with executive producer, Arista Records head Clive Davis, who as the reigning king of shlock, attempts to package the reigning queen of soul like those other slick popsters Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston.

Aretha still sounds great but with a couple of notable exceptions, the backing is vapid, artificial and soulless. Only the bookend opening and closing tracks - the funky title cut and Aretha's sole composition the jazzy "The Woman" - breathe any life into this sorry affair. Puff Daddy's contribution "Never Leave You Again" bears none of his hit-making magic, and things just get worse from there.

Next time, Davis should forget about the *Billboard* charts and think about the horn charts. It's about time Aretha began to get a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

SCOTTISH-BORN singer-songwriter John Martyn has enjoyed an illustrious 30-year career skirting the edges of folk, jazz and blues with his distinctive guitar playing and singing.

The Church with One Bell is also a good concept gone awry in execution. Martyn has chosen to cover a dazzling range of material, from the straight blues of Sonny Boy Williamson and the Reverend Gary Davis to singer/songwriters like Randy Newman and Ben Harper, to the trip-hop and ultramodern music of Dead Can Dance and Portishead.



Queen of soul Franklin deserves more respect. (Artis Lane)

Amazingly enough, Martyn manages to make all this seemingly incompatible music sound exactly the same - a droll, lazy shuffle that's perpetually stuck in first gear. Martyn's unique guit ar playing rarely emerges from the background, and his slithery vocal style makes all-star mumbler Mark Knopfler sound like a linguist.

Nonetheless, he brings out the best in some of the material like Newman's classic "God's Song" and Rick Danko's "Small Town Talk." Martyn could utilize a bit more energy and imagination to go along with his diverse song selection, but he gets points for even knowing who Portishead is.

SOMETIMES the lowest expectations provide the greatest rewards. Robyn is a 19-year old Swede who is storming up the US charts with her R&B-flavored dance pop. Her debut *Robyn Is Here* emphasizes the dance beat with innocuous lyrics and melodies.

Imagine an innocent Janet Jackson teaming up with Abba, and you'll begin to get the idea. Look for her picture on your kids' wall in the near future.

And the winner is....

The winner of last week's "In Tune" contest is Danny Ratner of Yavne, who correctly identified the familial connection between Ray Davies and Jim Kerr as both having had long-term relationships – and children – with the leader of The Pretenders, Chrissie Hynde.

Ratner receives the new Simple Minds disc *Neapolis*.

Loveless, lovelorn and lonely

THEATER REVIEW

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Niko Nitai is a past master of the monologue. *Pinuk Matrif* is, however, a departure from the high rhetoric with which he has graced monodramas for the last 25 years, like his riveting version of Albert Camus's *The Fall*.

With this comic-ironic presentation, he for once exhibits an impressive versatility. It features a weird Parisian loner and his problem with a python. Dodin, a subordinate clerk in the Office of Statistics, suffers from an alienation complex stemming from the grasping and acquisitive society of his paperwork peers. Loveless, lovelorn, and lonely, he adopts a tame python to compensate for the lack of affection and human contact in his dreary life.

Although ostensibly a "character" role, Nitai invests the personality of his eccentric protagonist with all the pathos and humanity of a sad clown. In the process, he manages to retain a bubbling current of wit and humor that relieves the melancholy of the sit-

PINUK MATRIF
(What Indulgence)
Based on *Gros Calin*, by Emile Ajar
Adapted & performed by Niko Nitai
Hasimta Cafe-Theater, Old Jaffa

uation and enriches the piece with an added dimension.

Perhaps just as interesting as this drama is the epilogue with which Nitai concludes the evening. It consists of an astounding exposure of the real identity of the author.

Emile Ajar, it transpires, was until 1981, considered the pseudonym of Paul Pavlovitch, an unknown young Russian Jewish writer. He was awarded the Prix Goncourt, France's highest literary honor, for a subsequent novel, *La Vie devant Soi* (later made into a film starring Simone Signoret).

In 1981, six months after the suicide of celebrated French novelist Roman Gary, the publication of his will sent a shiver through the entire literary world. Not only did he confess there that he had had a close connection with Pavlovitch - they were first cousins - but he also admitted to being the real author of four works published under Ajar's (i.e., Pavlovitch's) name.

Seen in this perspective, *Pinuk Matrife* acquires a further dimension. As a live memorial to a vibrant personality whose tragic life included a period as a wartime pilot and Free French hero, it strikes an uncanny and deeply moving chord.

Back to Balanchine

DANCE REVIEW

By ORA ARAFHAN

The company's three pieces pretty much covered all major changes that the company has undergone.

The evening included two works by the company's artistic director Berta Yampolsky and a work by Balanchine. The one that opened the evening – *Two by Two and Everyone* (premiere 1989) by Yampolsky – is a conservative, neoclassical piece (music: Mendelssohn Concerto No. 2) that is fluid, lyrical and pleasing to the eye.

The work that concluded the program relates to the past: *Symphony in C* (music: Georges Bizet) was choreographed 50 years ago by the great Georges Balanchine. He elevated abstract ballet to new heights and often sustained 19th century esthetics and the crystalline symmetry of the art of ballet. Here are preserved the grandeur of the time through structures, form and line.

The Israel Ballet has included Symphony in C in its repertoire

ECSTASY
The Israel Ballet
TAPAC, March 29

since 1991.

Ecstasy, which is set to percussive music, is Yampolsky's new work, and although its name implies combustion of the senses, or perhaps just losing control to some degree due to zealous passion, the ecstasy wasn't there. Actually "Energy" would be a more befitting name, as a lot of it was being produced on stage. It is very demanding, fast and rhythmic. Too often the work relied on complex movement phrases done with excruciating effort that made the work seem mechanical.

TV Ratings: March 29-April 4

Program	Day	Channel	Rating
1. Focus - Rafi Ginat	Saturday	2	33%
2. Only in Israel	Thursday	2	32.6%
3. Shemesh	Thursday	2	32.5%
4. Dan Shilon Live	Tuesday	2	29%
5. Channel 2 News	Saturday	2	27.5%
6. First in Entertainment	Monday	2	27.2%
7. Uvda (Fact)	Sunday	2	27.1%
8. Night with Chaim Yavin	Thursday	2	26.9%
9. Candid Camera Medley	Tuesday	2	26.2%
10. Ramat Aviv Gimmel	Wednesday	2	26%

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Building a home

Few events are more traumatic than the destruction of a home. It is no coincidence that Israel has used the sealing or destruction of homes as a punishment against the families of terrorists. The three homes destroyed last week by order of the court and the Interior Ministry did not belong to terrorists, but to Beduin families from a village whose sons serve in the IDF. The state obviously cannot accept the fact that thousands of homes are built illegally in both the Arab and Jewish sectors, but more sensitive ways can and must be found to deal with the problem.

Israeli Arab leaders themselves admit that the problem of illegally built homes for which demolition orders have been issued is widespread. As many as 12,000 homes in the Arab sector are subject to demolition, even though only a small fraction of these demolition orders are carried out. Now government officials are privately admitting that the timing – just before a holiday – and the choice of older, rather than newly constructed illegal homes, made these demolitions particularly traumatic. Add Arab politicians who are competing in local elections to the mix and the result is potentially incendiary.

It would be a mistake, however, to consider the violent confrontations between police and Beduin to be merely the result of tactical errors. The Arab sector, including the Beduin, feels the government discriminates against them in major areas of their lives, from funding for infrastructure and education through legal provision for the natural growth of their towns and villages.

Regarding the Beduin in particular, this government claims to be doing more than previous ones, including adoption of a master plan for the expansion of 34 Beduin villages and forming an interministerial committee to find solutions to illegal building and other problems.

In general, however, successive governments have tended not to act until Israeli-Arab grievances reach the boiling point. The obvious danger with this head-in-the-sand approach is that it sends the signal that the only way to gain the government's attention is by breaking the law – whether by attacking the police or, as the Histadrut did, launching illegal wildcat strikes. In the end, the government often finds itself "rewarding" acts that are worse than the behavior it was seeking to deter in the first place, and facing a standard of "acceptable" confrontation that has been ratcheted up another notch.

The annual exercise of widespread predictions of trouble before every Land Day, followed by the sigh of relief when that day passes quietly, does not help. Again, the standard that is set is a violent one – civilized, democratic, and legal protests are not worthy of much attention, while violent ones are. This is the exact opposite of the lesson the government should be trying to teach. Rather, the government should show that non-violent, democratic means work better, not worse, than the pelting of police that occurred in Shfaram.

Despite this incident – and the creeping radicalization of the Israeli-Arab sector in parallel with the souring of relations with Palestinians generally – there is much that is structurally sound and hopeful concerning Arab-Jewish relations within Israel. Israeli Arabs, by and large, identify with the Palestinian cause, but recognize that being a minority in a democracy is better than living under a nascent police-state of one's own. While there is much mutual suspicion, there is also a sincere desire on both sides for better integration. The desires of the majority for loyalty and of the minority for acceptance indicate that neither side looks to separation as a solution.

For some, the Israeli Arabs have represented a natural opportunity for a bridge between two peoples that have been at war with each other. This potential has never been fulfilled, and perhaps it is expecting too much to think that it could be. This ideal will never be approached, however, as long as Israeli Arabs have good reason to charge discrimination within the budget and under the law. Israel should correct these imbalances not just to avoid unrest, but because that is what a Jewish state demands. At the same time, the goal of eliminating this discrimination will ultimately be set back if Israeli Arabs give up on democratic and legal means to further their cause.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HUNGARIAN COMPENSATION

Sir, – My mother, a Holocaust survivor from Hungary, now 87 years old, is eligible for compensation by the Hungarian government for her husband's murder and all her possessions robbed in 1944. About half-a-century later, the Hungarians have decided to pay her via coupons, valid within Hungary only, worth about $800.

However, there are certain conditions for collecting her compensation: Since she does not wish to travel to the Hungarian National Bank in Budapest for her coupons, it remains to receive them by proxy. However since her coupons are not inheritable, the bank does not release her coupons unless she proves that she is still alive.

This could be done relatively easily through Israel's Interior Ministry's Jerusalem branch. But the Hungarians refuse to accept any attestation by the Interior Ministry.

Instead my mother is given two choices: To appear personally at the Hungarian embassy in Tel Aviv and sign an announcement, to be attested by the embassy at a cost of NIS 102, or first certify her signature with one of two notaries in Jerusalem, especially selected by the Hungarian embassy (at a cost of a few hundred shekels), which then has to be recertified at the Hungarian embassy in Tel Aviv for a further NIS 68.

This is hardly a proper way to compensate Holocaust victims and to my mind presents the Hungarian authorities with a new opportunity to humiliate their Holocaust victims.

DR. YEHUDIT FEUER

Jerusalem.

MALE EGO PROBLEMS

Sir, – Re: Marilyn Henry's article on *agunot* "Set the 'chained women' free," (March 9). The Torah obviously did not want *women to be held hostage in* unhappy marriages. In the past, recalcitrant husbands were beaten until they agreed to divorce their wives. The problem is that such beatings are no longer administered.

Without effective punishment, the natural tendency of most men is to rule over women. Witness an article in the same issue of the *Post* in which it was noted that, on the average, women earn 36 percent less than men for the same job. That's simply a male ego problem which the Torah tries to redress.

DR. MIRIAM ADAHAN

Jerusalem.

UNDERSTANDING THE ARABS

Sir, – In the light of the fuss over Labor leader Ehud's statement that if he had been a young Palestinian he might have joined a terrorist organization, it may be interesting to note a somewhat similar statement by the late David Ben-Gurion.

In his book *My Talks with Arab Leaders* (Keter Press, 1972, p. 15), Ben-Gurion described his conversation in 1935 with the Palestinian Arab leader Musa Alami, whom he tried to persuade that the Jews were bringing a blessing to Palestine, from which the Arabs too would benefit.

"Musa Alami told me," Ben-Gurion wrote, "that he would prefer the land to remain poor and desolate even for another hundred years, until the Arabs were capable of developing it and making it flower, and I felt that as a patriotic Arab he had every right to this view."

Chaim Weizmann said that the conflict over Palestine was not between right and wrong, but between two rights.

The creation of independent Israel was justified by the Jewish *people's need for a homeland* and what the League of National Mandate called its "historical connection... with Palestine."

At the same time we should understand that the Palestinian Arabs, unlike their brethren in the defunct Ottoman Empire, have been denied self-determination because of the realization of Zionism.

It is not surprising that, while the Palestine Liberation Organization and its leader Yasser Arafat have recognized Israel's right to peace and security, there is still a minority that continues the violent struggle.

MISHA LOUVISH

Jerusalem.

DIANA'S NAME

Sir, – The announcement that the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has not given permission to a doll manufacturer to produce a "Diana" doll does not surprise me.

However the denial by the same authority to the RAC (Royal Automobile Society) to use Diana's name to promote road safety is a shock.

Metuna approached the Fund for permission to dedicate a Children and Road Safety symposium in memory of the princess. We too were turned down.

We would like to believe that the compassionate princess, who cared so much for children, would not have refused.

ZELDA HARRIS,
Spokesperson, METUNA

Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 7, 1933, *The Palestine Post* published a report by Mr. Frumkin, Head of the Employment Bureau of the General Federation of Labor, indicating a severe shortage of workers in Palestine, however incongruous it may have sounded in a world where unemployment was the universal complaint. This demand for labor was not merely seasonal, but was the direct result of the fast expansion of the country's economic framework.

50 years ago: On April 7, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Jewish Agency accused the US Government, the British Government and the Palestine High Commissioner of carefully and deliberately glossing over the fact that foreign Arab troops and commanders had already entered Palestine and must be removed. A "conspiracy of silence" had suddenly descended on such armed intervention in Palestine by neighboring countries, the spokesman concluded.

Alexander Zvielli



Short-term interests

YOSSI BEILIN

It is difficult to know what really happened during Dennis Ross's visit to the region last week. An American plan had supposedly been formulated last December and submitted informally to the parties in January. Both Israelis and Palestinians had comments on this plan. The Europeans had been promised that it would be made public by the end of March.

The plan was so clear, that the entire media was able to publish the precise percentages to be transferred from Area C to B and from Area B to A and what other demands the Palestinians would make in exchange for annulling sections of the Palestinian Covenant.

The issue was so clear-that the only remaining question was whether the plan would be presented verbally or in writing, whether it would be presented on a "take it or leave it" basis or as a framework for further negotiations. Would Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, at its end, tell us to call her direct or the White House switchboard with our reply?

Somehow, none of this has happened. Following intensive consultations at the White House, President Clinton found himself on a tour of Africa. Albright vented her rage on the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, some of whom want to see the peace process continue, some of whom are more extreme than Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in their opposition to Oslo and one of whom even leaked the details of this odd and intimate conversation to the press.

Dennis Ross arrived in Israel after two telephone conversations between Netanyahu and Clinton, in which Netanyahu asked that the State Department's most senior peacemaker be sent out. When Ross arrived, the Americans made it clear that there was no plan. There are ideas.

When Netanyahu was asked about his discussions with Ross, he stated that they had not discussed the scale of the redeployment at all. The average Israeli citizen watching his TV set must be asking himself – am I really such an idiot?

For months, the leading news item has been the imminent announcement of the American peace plan, but when Dennis Ross actually arrives here, he has several meetings with Netanyahu, each lasting three to four hours and all they seem to discuss is baseball!

In the absence of peace there will be violence. The history of our region shows there is no middle way

The State Department spokesman talks about a crisis, the secretary of state says that the small amount of progress made is insufficient to bridge the gap, Arafat gives a vague hint of inadequate progress and Netanyahu's office announces that there is no crisis and that Ross returned to the US with some interesting ideas.

ONCE again it would seem that *none of the parties is interested in* admitting that there is a deadlock. Leaders need progress, achievements, even an outward impression of progress. They are not keen on crises. Every one of them – Bill Clinton, Yasser Arafat and Binyamin Netanyahu – may have to pay a political price which they *are unwilling to pay.*

They all also know that slogans can be sold cheaply. Progress is an abstract concept. What progress has been made? The number of passengers Arafat can take on his private plane when he flies out of the Dahaniya airfield? Agreement on the length of the safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank? The number of trucks allowed to leave the industrial zone? Anything can be portrayed as progress by a stern-faced, articulate spokesman using the right jargon.

The problem is, however, that life is not virtual but real. In the real world, miracles do sometimes occur and bombs explode in a garage instead of in the middle of a town. But the world has no time to wait for these spokesmen and is *not run by communiques. There is* no time to lose.

There are people out there attempting to obtain weapons of mass destruction, there is poverty, hopes have been shattered and a time has been determined, one year and one month from now, for concluding the negotiations on the permanent settlement.

The American-Israeli-Palestinian coalition, which prefers to make do with statements to the press when no real progress has been made, serves only short-term interests. In the long-term, it must bear responsibility for the fact that the moment of truth has moved away and that we are not relating to the more sensitive issues, which, as long as they remain unresolved, will not bring about peace.

In the absence of peace there will be violence. The history of our region has proved that there is no middle way.

The buried memo

BERNARD SMITH

Put aside the Sharon and Mordechai maps and focus on another, drawn by a group of disinterested military experts. On June 19, 1967, the United States secretary of defense directed the highest level of the armed forces, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to prepare a memorandum, free of political considerations, detailing the minimum territory Israel required "in order to permit a more effective defense against possible conventional Arab attack."

Basing its determination "on accepted tactical principles such as control of commanding terrain, use of natural obstacles ... and provisions of defense in-depth," the Joint Chiefs advised the following.

Israel should retain the Golan Heights, several sections of Sinai, the Gaza Strip and the land west of "a defense line generally along the axis Bardala-Tubas-Nablus-Bira-Jerusalem" then turning "southeast to a junction with the Dead Sea at Wadi el Daraja." (this being more than half of Samaria, contiguous with a thickening of the Jerusalem corridor), and all of Judea south of Jerusalem. The memorandum was explosive.

These extensive minimal requirements conflicted so severely with American foreign policy that the JCS document remained classified until 1983 and its contents ignored by seven presidents. US national interests, as perceived by the State Department and based on business and Cold War demands, required that Israel cede the land taken by the IDF in June 1967.

The US doctrine of withdrawal almost to the 1949 armistice lines led to Resolution 242 adopted by the UN five months after the Johnson administration received the JCS memo. The fact was that the military logic of Israel's territorial defense requirements was of small consequence when compared with the need to pacify the Arab countries. The JCS memo was buried.

Nevertheless, the US rejected the idea of a PLO state until the Oslo Accords forced the State Department to reverse its position. The intention to create an Arab state, implicit in the accords, opened the competition between the US, the European Community and a half dozen Middle Eastern countries for influence in a weak, dependent, irredentist country should it become a reality.

Without the West Bank, Israel is only eight miles wide at its narrowest point. That makes it indefensible

Together with the American interest in seeing an end to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, this motivates US pressure to ensure Israeli withdrawal from strategic territory. Thus, the American government does not need anyone resurrecting the 1967 memorandum.

On the other hand, the Israeli leadership, now focusing on Israel's security needs, should be publicizing the memorandum, which supports its contention that Judea and Samaria are vital to Israel's defense. While it is possible (though incorrect) to attribute ulterior motives to right-wing Maj.-Gen. (Res) Ariel Sharon's military assessments, none can challenge the recommendations of the top leadership of the US military on political or ideological grounds.

IN the years since the JCS memorandum, similar unbiased, expert opinions have been voiced. One of the most authoritative was heard shortly after the Gulf War in 1991. Lieutenant-General Thomas Kelly, a former director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and an armored corps officer, stated, "... the West Bank mountains, and especially their approaches, are the critical terrain. If an enemy secures these passes, Jerusalem and all of Israel becomes uncovered. Without the West Bank, Israel is only eight *miles wide at its narrowest point.* That makes it indefensible."

Geographically, defensible means mountains, wide rivers, thick forests, which impede enemy advances or help deter invasion. It means expanses requiring days for tanks to cross. Israel has none of these except the hills of Samaria and Judea: Without them, it becomes flat like Holland and Poland, encouraging assault by armored forces.

Some dovish Israeli generals, fully aware of this, have sought, but not found solutions to their dilemma of Judea and Samaria, save that which is inadequate or patently unacceptable to the Palestinian Authority. The fact is that there is no alternative to Israel holding the high ground and depth provided by these areas.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum, embodying these factors, is a weighty document, describing what Israel must incorporate at the very minimum for its defense, *then, now and in the future.*

It is the obligation of the Netanyahu government to reveal its contents to the Israeli people and remind the US Congress of what the State Department would rather it forget. With the current *preoccupation with maps, there is* no better time than now.

White House hype

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Paul Begala and James Carville acted as though a Zapruder documentary had just been released by Judge Susan Webber Wright in Arkansas showing Paula Jones entering the governor's hotel suite, chatting with its occupant, and being shown politely to the door after a five-minute interview. Their joy was unconfined, and they celebrated by suggesting that Kenneth Starr, tool of the tobacco industry, is the next in line to be discredited.

What perplexes is the wide assumption, nourished by the presidential courtiers, that the finding of Judge Wright exonerated President Clinton. The words of the critical community swirl about us, in print and over the airwaves, but there should be no risk, given the commotion, in making several points, the first of them *that Judge Wright never* opined on whether Paula Jones was lying.

At least, not on the principal question of public concern, namely, did governor Clinton behave toward her as she charged?

Here surely are the salient findings:

(1) In order to try, under present law, someone charged with sexual harassment, a proposed defendant needs to go further than to drop his pants in front of a woman and suggest sex. What you have to do is threaten the woman in some way for refusing to cooperate.

(2) You need to punish the uncooperative woman by whatever means. Paula Jones didn't charge that Clinton groped her, as Kathleen Willey alleges he groped her. What she said was that his displeasure was felt *in indirect ways*, including a failure to give her flowers, as was done to other members of the clerical staff on Secretaries Day; a failure to promote her as she might have expected to be promoted; and, by his attitude, to incur in her a "sexual aversion," this last a contribution of an imported sexual disorder specialist at the last minute, when Ms. Jones' attorneys were manifestly worried that she hadn't suffered obviously enough after leaving the hotel room.

(3) A jury is summoned to decide factual questions, as required to conclude guilt or innocence. If there aren't enough factual questions to warrant a bill of indictment, then there is insufficient work for the jury to perform.

If the six people to whom Jones reported the Clinton incident are to be believed, and Judge Wright did not dismiss their testimony, then Jones did indeed explain what had happened and complained about it.

But since she let the statute of limitations that might have triggered a criminal investigation of the event slide by, she had to abide by rules of civil conflict, and these require a starker showing of damages. The judge ruled that there wasn't such a showing, and was very convincing on the matter.

(4) The attention of the American public wasn't engaged by the charge that governor Clinton had persecuted Jones. It was engaged by the charge that he had dropped his pants as a sexual initiative. Absolutely nothing in the long opinion of Judge Wright concludes, or even presupposes, that that didn't happen.

Those who jump to the conclusion that because of the court's ruling Mr. Clinton is innocent of the sexual initiative go further than they would if they assumed that O.J. Simpson didn't kill his wife because the jurors ruled him not guilty. There was no factual determination in the Wright decision. The findings were quite simply procedural.

But Messrs. Carville and Begala, even if disingenuous when saying it, are correct in declaring that the whole matter is "political." It is political in the sense that the American people appear anxious *to believe that* Judge Wright's finding is the equivalent of the finding that everything Ms. Jones said was contrived and lacking in persuasive substance.

It is certainly true that the legal cost of the complaint was borne by persons motivated by a political willingness to punish Bill Clinton. There is no reason to suppose that they doubted Paula Jones' story, which was persuasive enough to survive the skepticism of a battery of journalists who sifted through it at the outset. The sober analysis of Jones' complaint by Stuart Taylor in *The American Lawyer* persuaded an apparent majority of those who looked into the matter that she had indeed been treated as complained.

That is how it will be left – a political scandal stillborn at the judge's hand. Unless Mr. Starr's findings cause the public to revise its reaction to Wednesday's court decision.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

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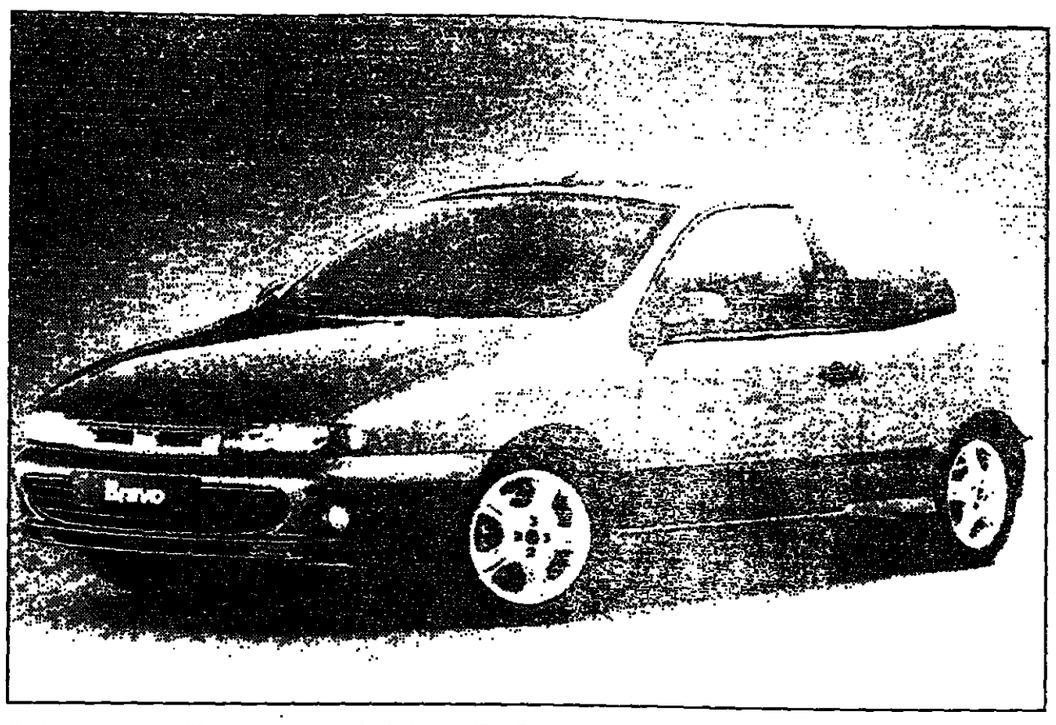
Tried and tested – read all about it

Those who are familiar with the British *Which* and the American *Consumer Reports* will likely welcome *Baduk*. But running Israel's first true-blue consumer magazine isn't all smooth sailing. Allison Kaplan Sommer reports



(Hanoch Guthmann)

Local hotdogs: where's the beef?



Baduk's short list of best compact car includes the Fiat Brava.

Until about 15 years ago Israelis had little need of a consumer magazine. After all, the choice between products, when it existed, was extremely limited.

Rarely were more than two or three different brands of food products manufactured or imported. The choice of clothing labels was similarly scant; even the range of large appliances and vehicles on offer was small and fairly unimaginative.

Customers took whatever they could get, and complaints were met with a shrug of the shoulder at best, open hostility at worst.

But as the country's economy expanded – gradually throughout the '80s then explosively in the '90s – the need for a systematic guide to serve an increasingly confused shopper became increasingly urgent. Consumer items in newspapers and the occasional investigative TV piece barely scratched the surface.

Even before beginning her job as chairman of the Israel Consumer Council, Ariella Ravdel-Nedkov was determined to see the launch of a local monthly consumer magazine; this month she celebrated the publication of the first issue of *Baduk* ("Tested").

The magazine is a key factor in what Ravdel-Nedkov describes as the wider mission: increasing public consumer awareness and getting Israeli businesses to be more accountable to their customers.

The magazine tests and rates a variety of products. It also investigates complaints about defective merchandise and updates its readers on consumer news.

"We consider ourselves a Western country," Ravdel-Nedkov says, "so we need to develop a Western consumer culture. I see this kind of magazine as a basic tool for fashioning a clear-thinking and savvy consumer."

Ravdel-Nedkov points out that Israelis who have lived abroad in Britain or the US quickly learned to make use of veteran consumer publications like *Consumer Reports* and *Which?* before buying cars, appliances and other items. "Then they came back to Israel and couldn't understand why we didn't have anything similar here."

Consumer guides have appeared in Israel before. There was one put out by British immigrants in the 1970s, and a series of booklets from the Histadrut in the 1980s. But they weren't comprehensive, and weren't set up to carry out independent product testing. There is also the recently launched *Objective*, but its objectivity is open to question (see later).

THE REASON nothing like *Baduk* has surfaced before is largely a question of money.

This type of magazine simply costs more to put out. If, for example, it is to examine the quality of products thoroughly, it must acquire them at cost (getting them for free would compromise the tests' credibility). Furthermore, the magazine has to hire the proper experts with the appropriate laboratory equipment.

Potential revenue for such a publication, on the other hand, is extremely limited. A credible, truly objective consumer magazine must stay afloat solely on income generated from subscriber fees and newsstand sales. It cannot take advertising – normally a magazine's bread and butter – lest customers suspect ratings of being swayed by advertisers.

In larger, wealthier countries like the US and Britain, the potential subscriber base for major consumer magazines is significant enough to make this tricky financial equation work. In Israel, it is much more difficult, perhaps impossible.

Ravdel-Nedkov's solution was to seek government support for *Baduk*, at least for the first few years of its existence. After recruiting the support of Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, who in turn lobbied the Finance Ministry for money, she found her funding.

She cuts some of her costs by filling part of the magazine with articles translated from *Which?*, *Consumer Reports* and the German equivalent, *Test*. The magazine has exclusive rights to reproduce these publications' work in full.

Ravdel-Nedkov claims these solutions are preferable to the means *Objective* uses. It has sought to make ends meet by licensing its name to various products, allowing them to use *Objective*'s ratings in their advertising and promotion.

But such sponsorship contravenes the strict ethical code of magazines like *Consumer Reports* and *Which?*, the presumption being that sponsorship, like advertising, undermines credibility; a magazine might, understandably, be suspected of favoring products whose manufacturers pay the magazine for use of its name.

NOT THAT the solutions *Baduk* has come up with in order to remain financially solvent are perfect.

While articles looking at the quality of locally made brands of hot dogs, tehina, and sweat shirts and pants for children are relevant and useful, the translated articles from abroad are not always that applicable to local needs.

In the premiere issue, for example, the cover story, translated from *Which?*, examines different types of sneakers: those designed for running, aerobics, and cross-training. In some of the categories the information, though thorough and informative, is utterly useless to the Israeli shopper.

One category describes four models of sneakers – only one of which is available locally. Another describes six models, only two of which can be found in Israeli stores.

Another article, translated from *Consumer Reports* and comparing the relative merits of Duracell and Energizer batteries is more worthwhile, but the Israeli consumer isn't given a clue about how their quality and cost-effectiveness stacks up against local brands like Tadiran.

ANOTHER potentially troubling issue is whether the magazine's government support might compromise its credibility or limit its ability to criticize government policies and actions. Ravdel-Nedkov insists it will not.

"In this country the government is one of the biggest suppliers of products and services. Our greatest confrontations will probably be with the government, and we won't be shy about pursuing them," she says firmly.

She points to the most controversial article in the first issue as proving the magazine's ability to stand up in the face of extreme pressure.

The article criticizes the very popular "National Auction" (*Michraz Shel Hamedina*), a marketing gimmick which has customers paying a fee to bid for cut-rate prices on a range of items.

The article came about in response to the large number of complaints and lawsuits the magazine's reporters found had been filed against the Auction in the small claims courts.

Unhappy customers complained that the item they had bid for was a different brand from the product they actually received: and that when their merchandise arrived damaged they had no recourse, since the Auction took no responsibility, claiming only middleman status. Other complainants charged that the retail price advertised in the Auction was far higher than the price actually charged in stores.

"The Auction organization pressured us and even made threats if we went ahead and published the article," Ravdel-Nedkov recalls. "Their lawyer wrote a letter to our board of directors — but we refused to back down. We quoted items from court files which were on the public record.

"I would hope," Ravdel-Nedkov continues, "that our magazine will help change the attitude of companies like this, that in a few years their response to such criticism will be an apology and a promise to reexamine and change their policies."

Ravdel-Nedkov also hopes that it will take the Israeli consumer less than five years to discover the usefulness of a magazine like *Baduk*, and that the number of subscribers and level of income will make government help no longer necessary.

"In wealthy countries like Germany and Belgium the government has assisted consumer magazines, helped them get their start and sometimes continued supporting them," she says. "The only magazine that has never received government help is *Consumer Reports*, and it has accepted donations from foundations, something that can raise another set of questions.

"As I see it, our magazine is a worthwhile investment to help protect and defend the Israeli consumer, and, most importantly, to give him the tools to defend himself." The magazine is being marketed through newspaper and radio advertising, and the Consumer Council is pleased with the response since the magazine's launch on March 15.

In its first week the magazine gained 100 subscribers. But there is a long way to go before it achieves financial stability. At least 20,000 subscribers are needed to cover production costs.

Baduk is being sold both at newsstands and by subscription. The newsstand price is NIS 14.90. The price of an annual subscription is NIS 144, with a special introductory price of NIS 120 for the first 1,000 subscribers. Tel. (03) 566-0905, fax (03) 560-0180 or by mail to P.O. Box 10391, Tel Aviv 61143.

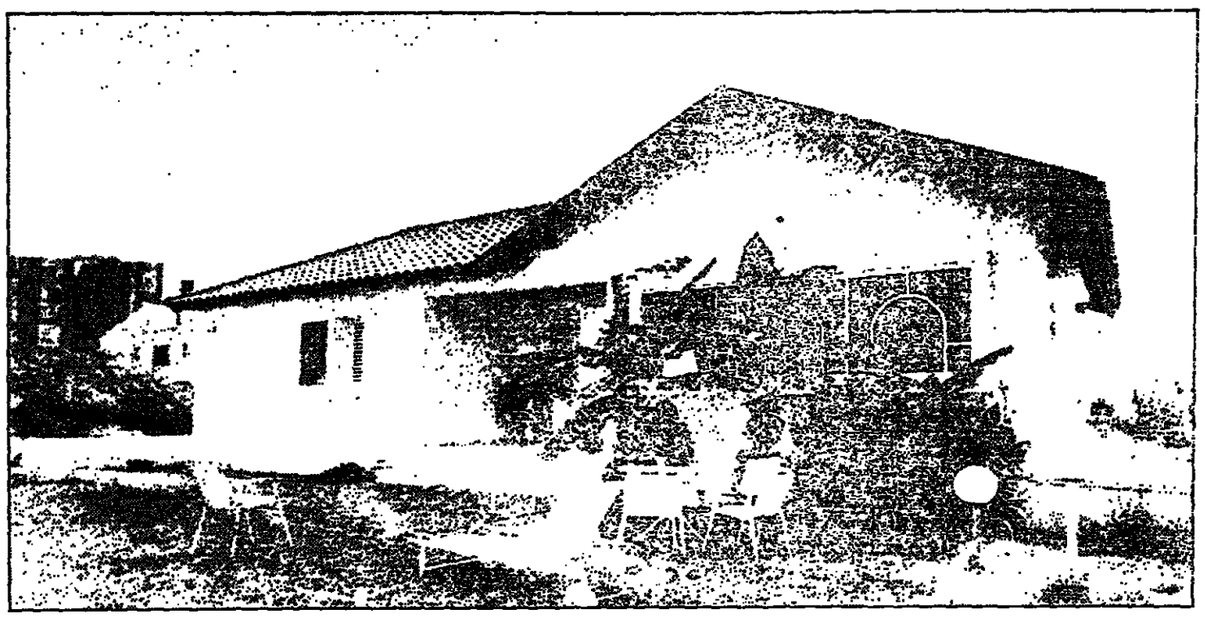


(Hanoch Guthmann)

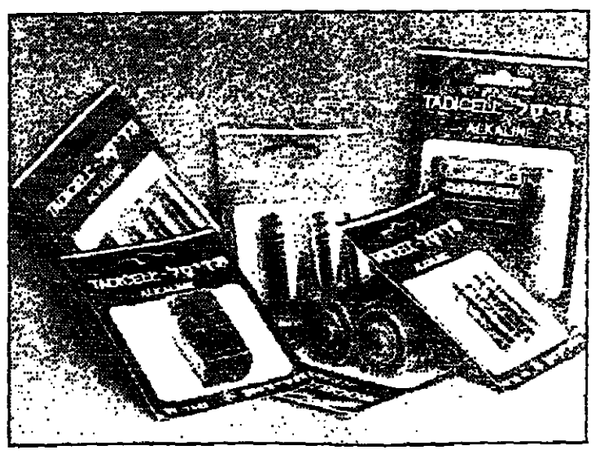


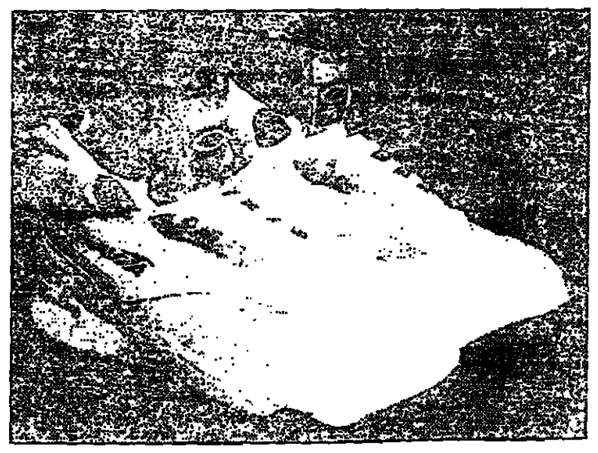
There's not much difference in the quality of a sweatshirt purchased in the souk and one that comes from a trendy boutique.

'Our biggest confrontations will probably be with the government, and we won't be shy about pursuing them'



In home insurance, Yashir offers rates that are 45 percent lower than its competitors. (D.Mordzinski)





Some of the consumer reports don't deal with local products at all. For the best battery, Duracell and Energizer tie, but there's no mention of Tadiran. Most of the winners in the best sneakers category aren't available here.

So – how do they rate?

Hot Dogs

When it comes to hot dogs in Israel, it seems the key question is: "Where's the beef?" (or the turkey, or the chicken....)

"Miss Lucy" hot dogs, produced by the Hod Lavan company, are composed of 64.1 percent water and fillers, the upper limit of what the law permits, more than any other brand of hot dog. Zoglobek hot dogs contain 60.4 percent water and fillers, and Tirat Zvi 61.2 percent.

Children's sweatshirts and sweatpants

It appears that there is little difference between the sweats purchased at a full-price retail chain store like Rav Kat, Chicco or Shilav and those one can find for far less money in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market.

A "Potter" brand sweatshirt purchased at Rav Kat on Ibn Gviriol Street in Tel Aviv had a label stating the product was made of 100-percent cotton. But a laboratory inspection found that it was, in fact, only 72 percent cotton. Another sweatshirt under the "M-S" label bled color when laundered and when the wearer was sweating, as did a shirt purchased at Shilav.

A shirt purchased at Chicco shrank by 5% – more than any of the other shirts, although that was still within the legal limit of 6% shrinkage. Still, the Chicco store took the product off of the shelf when *Baduk* informed it of the shrinkage.

A shirt manufactured by "Agam" and purchased at the Carmel Market bled color in the laundry, when the wearer sweated and when rubbed. That shirt, also labeled as 100 percent cotton, contained only 67 percent cotton.

Sneakers

Best running shoes: Saucony Jazz 5000. Best cross-training shoe: Adidas Speed Trainer. Best aerobic shoe: Reebok.

Home and Car Insurance

The company with the lowest rates for insuring homes and automobiles is Yashir (Direct), in the case of home insurance, 45 percent cheaper than its competitors.

Best Compact Car

Baduk car critic Roni Aharonovitz recommends the top four models as the best buys: Fiat Brava, Renault Magen, Peugeot 306 and the Citroen Cassara. At the bottom of his list was the Skoda Felicia. The BMW compact car is rated as the overall best compact, but also the most expensive.

A.K.S

Out of control

Playing with my toddler son the other day, I couldn't help imagining what it would be like to be the mother of the "Analyzer."

Parenting a young child involves watching with pride as your child learns new skills – and then dealing with setting limits on those skills by teaching them rules. It's a constant tightrope act: You praise and clap your hands when they first scribble a picture on paper, but then you have to instruct them not to decorate the living room walls with their creative impulses. You thrill to the first time children pick up a ball and throw it, but when they hurl it at a glass table you have to take the ball away.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

It's all about control. You have to support their desire to control their world, but then take that control away from them when it becomes dangerous to themselves or others, by clueing them in to the existence of laws.

So what of Mali Tannenbaum, who recently learned that her dyslexic, somewhat shy son Ehud, has turned out to be the infamous "Analyzer" who invaded hundreds of Internet servers, wreaked havoc on Web sites he didn't approve of, and cut off Internet access to his "enemies?"

The whole episode apparently took Mali by surprise. Neither she nor Ehud's father had had a clue about what he was up to in his second-floor bedroom; he hadn't let them into his room for years.

It seems she had given up on control issues with her son a long time ago.

"Ever since Ehud was in my belly he's been telling me what to do," Mali told the press last week. "With my first pregnancy, I had a big stomach and wore a belly belt. When I tried to put the belt on when I was pregnant with Udi, he started to kick me hysterically, and I took the belt off. I remember saying then that this baby was going to get what he wants."

Indeed, explained Mali Tannenbaum, it was not easy raising the willful Ehud. Throughout his childhood and adolescence he changed schools frequently, had trouble with teachers, and his grades never matched his intelligence level.

Mali must have been somewhat relieved when her son first demonstrated such deep interest in his computer, but she was helpless when his hobby spun out of control. Even though she admits that she was "opposed to his obsessive sitting in front of the computer" that caused his sleepless nights and red eyes, she did nothing about it. How could she know that he was creating computer headaches worldwide?

Heaven forbid that I should suggest Mali's lax parenting is in any way responsible for her son's actions.

What *is* quite disturbing is that now she knows he was breaking into places he shouldn't have gone, her reaction is one of maternal pride. To his Mom, "Udi" is just a nice Jewish boy with a computer, a "Robin Hood" who teases the powerful and supports the helpless on the Internet. The Pentagon should be grateful to her brilliant boy, she said.

"Those masters of the universe, the Americans, amaze me," she said in an interview over the weekend. "Instead of being happy that a young boy of 18 from Hod Hasharon, who doesn't have a clue about military secrets, entered their computers and not the KGB, they are treating him like a criminal. They should thank him.

"His challenge was to get in and to tell them that these holes can be invaded," said Mali. "He told us that he helped them by closing the 'bugs' that allowed him to get into the system."

The Jewish mother syndrome has also colored the reaction toward "Analyzer" by the Israeli press, and even national leaders. All that young Ehud was doing with his computer was trying to make the world a better place, they hint or state outright. After all, how can you condemn someone who claims to use his skills to harass neo-Nazis and pedophiles, has never stolen anything, despite access to credit cards, and has helped large organizations and governments plug dangerous holes in their systems? Even Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu pronounced him "damn good," hardly a stern condemnation.

Instead of facing imprisonment, like his fellow hackers in the US, Ehud Tannenbaum is already heading for his service in the IDF, amid barely concealed public enthusiasm for all this boy will be able to do for national security in the army.

Lost in all this is the simple fact that this young man did, in fact, break rules and invade property that was not his.

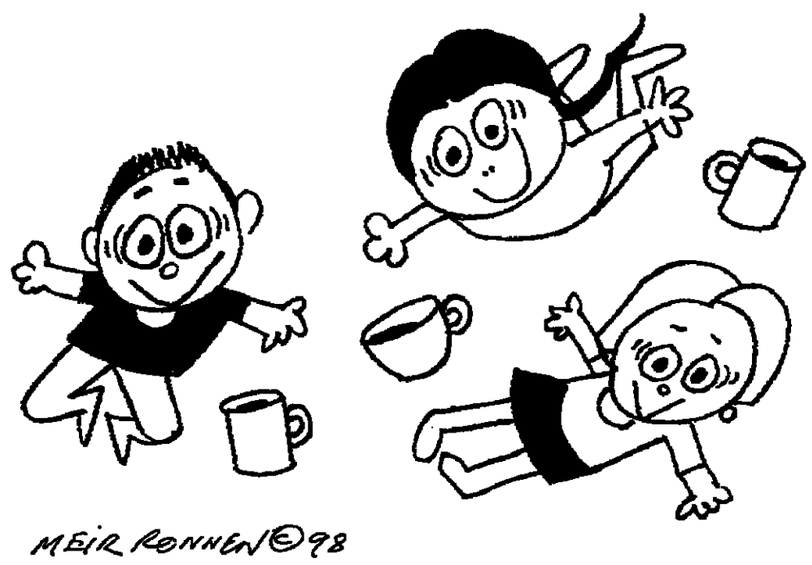
If the "Analyzer" had been a mountain-climbing enthusiast instead of a computer hacker and had scaled the Pentagon building, broken through a window and spent the night poking around its secret documents – even if he swept the floor and rearranged the furniture but didn't take anything – would anyone argue that he shouldn't be punished for breaking and entering?

Like all little boys Ehud Tannenbaum was fascinated by the idea of control: he wanted to help the Internet sites he liked and smash the ones he didn't; he harassed, teased and tried to "destroy" Internet users who didn't suit his fancy.

Even if it sounds uncool and moralistic, someone needs to stand up and say it was wrong and defend the concept of obeying the rules: you don't scribble on the walls, you don't throw balls in the house, and you don't invade the Pentagon's computer.

It's a fact of life: Young boys want to control their world and will use whatever skills they have to try to gain that control. Without a healthy respect for rules and the law to check the impulses of their young, undeveloped, and sometimes warped personal moral codes, tragedies can occur, especially when the boys are skilled in operating tools more lethal than a Pentium computer. For a chilling example, we need only look to the 13-year-old boy in Arkansas, who, with the aid of an 11-year-old buddy, gunned down a girl who broke up with one of them, along with her schoolmates.

When you think about how the parents of these two boys must feel, being the mother of the "Analyzer" sounds like a picnic by comparison.



Coffee – a cool beverage

By ELIZABETH KASTOR

When the parents are there, they call the shots: Make that a decaf. But when the kids are on their own – the young kids, the preteens, the middle-schoolers – forget decaf. Bring on the Frappuccino! Bring on the latte! Bring on the coffee, that bitter draft of maturity. Just make sure to put lots and lots of sugar in it.

"It's crazy," says Brian White, shift supervisor at the Starbucks kiosk at the Chevy Chase Pavilion here. "I have poured lattes and stuff for kids like 10. I say, 'Do you know what you're doing?' They say, 'Yeah!' Then I see them flying around the mall."

Hang out in an upscale coffee emporium these days and you're likely to come across at least a few kids sipping $3 lattes. Coffee – the dark stuff that so many college students trained themselves to like in order to get through early-morning classes, for decades a drink that seemed to shout "middle age" – now spans the generations.

"I see a lot of freshmen walking around with 7-Eleven cups of coffee," says David Wegener, an 18-year-old senior at Langley High School in McLean, Va. He is sitting outside a Starbucks, along with his 13-year-old sister Merisa. She's drinking something brown and icy, but she insists (while her mother watches) that she sticks with decaf.

What happened to childhood? What happened to innocence? What happened to Hawaiian Punch and Kool-Aid?

Okay, so maybe not every kid is drinking coffee. Underage coffee consumption isn't exactly a societal blight. Maybe it isn't a sign that Starbucks has plans for world domination and will soon be selling House Blend baby formula. Still, adults may begin to wonder what they have left to call their own.

Ted Lingle, director of the Specialty Coffee Association of America, has a 12-year-old daughter devoted to frozen mocha drinks and says he sees a milky silver lining to the mini-trend.

What happened to childhood innocence? What happened to Hawaiian Punch and Kool-Aid?

"If you look at it, there's so much milk, relative to the amount of coffee – I'd rather have her drink this than a Coke," he says. "Nutritionally, they're much better for kids." The coffee industry has been tracking consumption since the '50s with its Winter Drinking Study.

According to Robert Nelson, National Coffee Association president, the number of kids under 15 who drink coffee is extremely low – fewer than 2 percent of them – and has remained relatively stable for years. But Lingle thinks the statistics, which are gathered by asking Americans what they drank the day before, are missing something.

"You see a lot of anecdotal evidence that young teen-agers are frequenting coffee cafes," Lingle says. "The industry's really come up with products that appeal to younger people."

Starbucks spokesman Chris Gimbl says, "We don't market specifically to any single group, including kids and teen-agers." If the sweetened, icy drinks appeal to kids – well, it's just an act of beverage fate.

What about all the caffeine? Won't it stunt their growth, or something?

According to pediatrician Susan Baker, chairwoman of the American Academy of Pediatrics' committee on nutrition, "We don't think [coffee] is part of a healthful diet, and we certainly don't encourage its use." But, she says, there has been no evidence that caffeine – within the range most kids consume – harms them.

Back at the Starbucks kiosk at the Chevy Chase pavilion, manager Chris Kaplinski has dropped by for a quick cup. She grew up drinking coffee with her Italian relatives, but knows that some parents don't like to think their kids have a java habit.

"We have children's beverages, juice and milk and cocoa," she says. "We don't want to encourage kids to drink coffee."

(The Washington Post)

Go on – value yourself!

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie. My boyfriend just broke up with me and I am completely heartbroken. After having a series of men who treated me badly (lied to me, made me feel worthless and unattractive) I finally met someone who was kind and compatible. I was so happy that my taste in men had changed, since this was the first decent guy I'd ever been attracted to. He was not the kind who would cheat on me, and he saw me as intelligent and good-looking.

We went out for a few months, and I wasn't sure whether he would be "the one," but I mainly thought that this was because he was "too nice," so it felt a little boring. I realized, though, that this had to do with my old patterns. I considered going into therapy. Instead, I went on a trip to Israel with a girlfriend. I was hoping that missing him would make me conclude that he was the man I should marry. He was certainly the "type" I should marry.

When I was away, I didn't miss him that much, because I was having such a great time. But then, when I talked about him with my girlfriend, I would remember his gentleness and love for me, and I would miss him. When I returned after my trip, everything was good, though it took a few days to get used to each other again.

Then, out of the blue, he broke it off. I felt doubly hurt because he was someone I felt I could count on loving me. Not like the guys I used to date.

Now it's like nobody is right for me, and I feel even more worthless than before.

Heartbroken
Somewhere in the US

Dear Heartbroken,

Changing the "type" of man in your life is not the same thing as changing your patterns of behavior in relation to men. If the shift is not internal, it doesn't constitute genuine change.

From what you describe, it is clear that you base your relations with the opposite sex on the way they feel about you – not on the way you feel about them.

Before you met this last boyfriend, your pattern was to be attracted to men for the negative way they treated you. This was your way of using them to reinforce the negative feelings you have about yourself. Then you found someone who treated you well. You selected him to reinforce the positive things you recognize in yourself.

To be sure, this is a healthier attraction on your part. However, the fact that you continue to need a man to perform a task you should be performing on your own indicates that your internal journey is by no means over. Going on a trip with a girlfriend in order to examine your feelings was your way of avoiding continuing on your internal journey. Concluding that if a nice guy like this breaks up with you, you must really have no value is your way of giving up on the journey altogether.

Until you accept and appreciate your own worth, you are destined to rely on others to provide you with your self-image. And, as long as others have that job, you will continue to be disappointed or heartbroken by them. Your main order of business, then, is to begin focusing on how you feel about others – particularly men – and stop concentrating on how they feel about you.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in *In Jerusalem* and *City Lights* on Fridays.)

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Guide to the Golan Heights

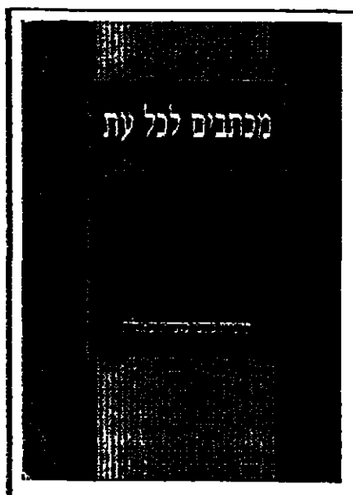
by Aviva Bar-Am and Yisrael Shalem

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GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Dudu Topaz and Roni Chen in better times.

Following a much-publicized but short-lived reconciliation, **Dudu Topaz** and **Roni Chen** have finally called it quits. The two were divorced last Thursday at the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court, where they arrived and left separately. The half-year marriage had been rocky almost from the start. Although Topaz and Chen professed to love each other dearly, there were too many points of disagreement which they could not resolve.

LAST month, models **Anat Biran** and **Yana Hodriker** strutted on the same catwalk at the Tel Aviv Hilton, but last Wednesday Biran emceed the fashion show marking the opening of Galeries Lafayette in the Azrieli Center, and Hodriker was a member of the audience before popping in next door to model exclusive jewelry at the opening of yet another link in the H. Stern chain.

Another former model and international beauty queen who watched the Galeries Lafayette show with interest was **Hava Levy**, who later tried on some of the garments. **Amit Biel**, managing director of Shekem, which has the local franchise for Galeries Lafayette, promised that the store's prices would be unbeatable. Guests received a 25% discount on all opening-day purchases.



Yuval Rabin: new dad
(Brian Hendler)

AFTER close to half a lifetime in the same apartment, former Jerusalem mayor **Teddy Kollek** and his wife, **Tamar**, are moving to a retirement home and are busy giving away or selling those of their treasures which they are unable to take with them.

Although he has difficulty walking these days, Kollek, who turns 87 next month, can hardly be classed as a retiree. He is still busy raising funds in Israel and abroad for the Jerusalem Foundation and the Israel Museum, of which he is chairman and president, respectively, and he's also rushing around to parlor meetings on behalf of **Shimon Shetreet**, who is running against Ehud Olmert in the upcoming mayoral elections. Shetreet, a former Labor MK who held three ministerial portfolios, started out as an independent but received Labor's backing last week after attempts to find another candidate to run in Jerusalem failed.



Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern (right) with Ambassador to the Irish Republic Zvi Gabay.

HER blue-eyed infant granddaughter **Omer** almost stole the show from **Leah Rabin** at the latter's 70th birthday party last Friday. The daughter of **Tali** and **Yuval Rabin**, Omer, the youngest of the four Rabin grandchildren, was fawned over by most of the 500 guests who accepted the invitation of **Dalia** and **Avi Pelosoff**, Yuval and Tali Rabin, **Yonatan** and **Noa Ben-Arzi**, **Michael** and **Omer Rabin** and **Hila** and **Rani Rahav** to join in the celebrations at the Rahavs' home in Savyon. In lieu of gifts, guests were asked to make donations to *Alut* (the Association for Autistic Children), the Friends of Tel Hashomer, or the Rabin Medical Center.

While many honored this request, there were also numerous gifts, including a gold chain from **Yasser Arafat**, delivered by **Ahmed Tibi**, and a box of home-made sesame cookies prepared by **Rachel Yaacov**, who was housekeeper in the prime minister's residence during both of Yitzhak Rabin's terms in office, and who has served all the prime ministers of Israel from Ben-Gurion onwards. Yaacov left her post after a humiliating altercation with **Sara Netanyahu** who, among other things, allegedly threw a pair of shoes at her. Leah Rabin embraced Yaacov and told her that she was the most cherished woman in Jerusalem. Several guests tried to get Yaacov to reveal what goes on in the prime ministerial household, but believing discretion to be a virtue, she remained mum.

Also present were former presidents **Ephraim Katzir** and **Yitzhak Navon**, former General Security Service chiefs **Carmi Gillon** and **Ya'acov Peri**, outgoing Mossad chief **Danny Yatom**, former Supreme Court justice **Gabriel Bach** and his wife, **Ruth**, and Finance Minister **Yaakov Neeman**, who never seems to refuse an invitation to anything.

Then there was Defense Minister **Yitzhak Mordechai**, who is shedding weight, while his wife **Kochi** is in an advanced stage of pregnancy and obviously gaining, plus several MKs including **Ehud Barak**, **Rehavam Ze'evi**, **Dalia Itzik**, **Naomi Chazan**, **Uzi Baram**, **Shaul Amor**, **Ran Cohen** and others. Also present was **Aura Herzog**, who came with her son **Isaac** and his wife, **Michal**.

TO mark the first anniversary of the passing of Israel's sixth president, Irish-born Chaim Herzog, a copy of his autobiography, *Living History*, was presented to the Irish Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern** by **Zvi Gabay**, Israel's ambassador to the Irish Republic at the government buildings in Dublin. An Irish delegation from Trinity College, Dublin, this week attended memorial services for Herzog in Jerusalem. They included college provost Dr. **Thomas Mitchell** and his wife, **Lynn**; Professor **Sean Freyne**, head of the School of Hebrew, Biblical and Theological Studies and acting director of the Chaim Herzog Center for Judaic and Near Eastern Cultural Studies; and **Mary Apied**, director of the Trinity Foundation.

HE had come to Israel 30 years ago to assist **Elihu Katz** and **Uzi Peled** in starting up Israel Television, "and I'm still here," said television and film director **Herb Krosney** at the premiere of his documentary *Israel – Birth of a Nation*, which is to be broadcast on both Channel 8 and Channel 2. Peled and Katz attended the reception which preceded the Jerusalem Cinamatheque screening, as did host and narrator Sir **Martin Gilbert**.

The audience represented a large slice of Israel's history and included personalities such as **Teddy Kollek**, **Avraham Avi Hai**, **Yehuda Avner**, **Esther Narkiss**, **Collette Avital**, **Yitzhak Navon**, **Menahem Ulman** and **Yair Parag**. The latter two, who fought in the 1948 war and were interviewed in the film, received a special round of applause when the lights went on.

ISRAELI models have graced glossy publications all over the world, and now they're also going to be included in the Spanish edition of *Cosmopolitan*. Invited to Israel by the Hyatt Hotel chain in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, the *Cosmopolitan* team photographed models **Shirli Bouganim**, **Isabelle Adler** and **Mor Katzir** in swimwear by Gottex and Gideon Oberson. The locations were, of course, around the Hyatt pools in Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.

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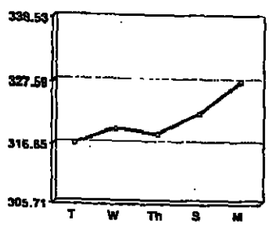
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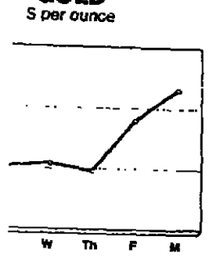
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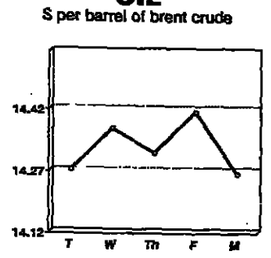
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OIL
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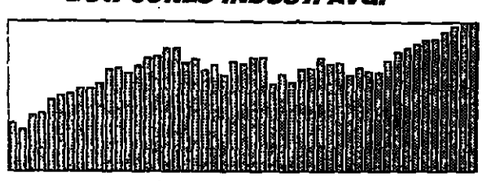


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April 1997 – April 1998

eign investments rise to $1.8b. in '97

al investments by foreign residents in Israel rose to a net billion last year from $1.4b. in 1996, the Bank of Israel yesterday. Most of the investments were in the services and cial sectors. The central bank said that during 1997 only a l portion of foreign investments was financed by shekel-*d loans from Israeli banks. Total investments of foreign* ents in 1997 amounted to $3b., compared with $2b. a year er. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

tner pays NIS 1.4b. for cellular tender

rtner Communications Company, the winner of the tender to me the third cellular telephone operator, yesterday trans-d NIS 1.4 billion to the Finance Ministry as a license fee. Partner group comprises Hutchison Telecommunications 5%), Matav Cable Systems Media (25.01%) and Elbit 49%). The group will have the right to operate for 10 years, an optional extension for six years. *David Harris*

am wins $40m. contract in South Africa

itam/BBDO's office in South Africa has won a $40 million ual contract from the banking and financial services concern SA, the largest account ever secured by an Israeli-owned , the company said.
BSA is South Africa's biggest banking group and includes r commercial banks. The group, whose annual turnover is billion, previously had divided its advertising budget among agencies.
iitam South Africa was established in 1993 and is headed by ssi Schwartz. *Nina Gilbert*

As shekel depreciates 1.9%:

Neeman urges public calm

By DAVID HARRIS and DAN GERSTENFELD

The shekel yesterday depreciated 1.92 percent against the dollar – an all time high – leading Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to call for calm on the part of the public.

The representative rate for the dollar was set at NIS 3.701, which dealers attributed to speculative moves ahead of the eagerly anticipated announcement on currency liberalization.

"I believe this is simply nervousness just before the reform to full convertibility," said Bank Leumi dealing room head Haim Formowitz. "Most of the activity comes from local players, not foreigners."

He added that there is no justification for the sharp depreciation – 2.9% since trading at 3.597 at the beginning of the month – as the liberalization steps are expected to lead to an appreciation.

Speaking to journalists in Jerusalem yesterday, Neeman reaffirmed his commitment to relaxing currency controls, saying he hopes "we'll get to the final target on time."

There has been a jittery response in the markets to the failure of Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to specify exactly when the changes will be implemented and what they will comprise. It is widely believed, however, the new regime will be announced on Independence Day, less than a month away.

"The dollar and other currencies are behaving according to market conditions," said the minister. "I don't think there's room for a rush for one currency or another. As soon as the Israeli shekel is fully convertible it will be a coinage worth keeping. I suggest the public remains quiet and calm."

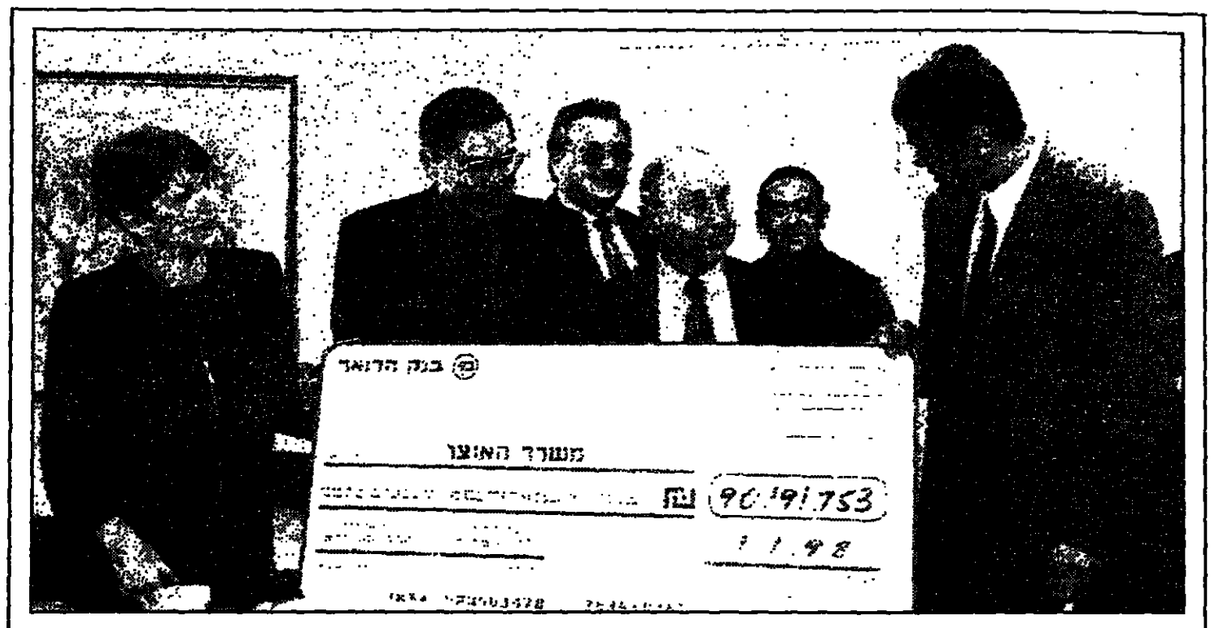
Asked whether he fears that Israelis would use the opportunity to purchase property overseas, Neeman replied that he trusts Israelis "know what to purchase with their money."

He added that he does not believe the steps would lead to a flight of capital.

Analysts claim the recent decline in the shekel is not the beginning of a long-term trend and say the business sector has still not begun paying off foreign currency-linked loans.

Formowitz said, however, that the market is likely to remain nervous in the short-term, although he does not foresee a dramatic decline.

The shekel also depreciated yesterday against the currency basket (-1.922%) pushing it to 2.4% above the lower edge of its trading band. Within the basket, the sharpest declines were reported against the German mark (-2.416%) and the French franc (-2.409%).



Postal Authority chairman Shmuel Lahman (second from left) and Director-General Moshe Tery (right) yesterday hand over a check for 1997 royalties to Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

Cheaper prices promised as:

Livnat considers postal demonopolization

By DAVID HARRIS

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman this week approved the establishment of a committee to investigate the Postal Authority's pricing system and the future demonopolization of the service, they announced yesterday.

Speaking in the Treasury, they stressed the good work the relatively new management is doing, but added that more can be done, including a full review of tariffs for consumers.

The committee, under the chairmanship of former Treasury director-general David Brodet, will investigate a variety of issues surrounding the Postal Authority:

- Is the present pricing system fair, offering consumers value for money?
- Where is there room for changes in tariffs?
- How can the authority best be opened to competition?
- How can the authority be better integrated in other communications sectors?
- Is there any way to better supervise the activities of other existing door-to-door delivery services?

"We're not waiting for the results of the Brodet committee to be published, we're already working on improvements," said authority chairman Shmuel Lahman.

Following the announcement, Communications Ministry Director-General Daniel Rosenne said one of his main concerns is the large number of private organizations offering postal services (some 200), a considerable proportion of which are operating illegally.

Authority Director-General Moshe Tery said that services must be offered on a competitive footing, and that consumers' needs must be considered when any efficiencies are implemented.

Lahman and Tery yesterday handed Neeman and Livnat a check for NIS 90.191 million in royalties from 1997 income and promised a larger sum for this year.

Discount: Inflation decline is permanent

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The public sees the current decline in inflation as a permanent one, according to a report economists of Israel Discount Bank published yesterday.

The paper said that unlike the sharp decrease in inflation in 1992 and 1995, this time the public believes the fall is permanent. The economists based this conclusion on inflation expectations for the next two or three years, as it is reflected by the yield difference between linked and unlinked bonds, which is lower than 5 percent. Discount's experts estimated that the factors which led to lower inflation during recent months will continue to exist in coming years.

The economists predicted that inflation would rise a moderate 5.5% in the next 12 months, with the shekel depreciating 6% against the currency basket. In addition, they expect the Bank of Israel to slash its base rate by another 1% before the end of the third quarter, unless the shekel depreciates sharply following the introduction of the foreign exchange liberalization.

The economic activity is expected to continue to decline during the next few months if investments in the economy decrease, demand for Israeli products from South Asian countries falls, investments in infrastructure halt and the Bank of Israel continues its strict monetary policy.

In addition, the number of housing starts is expected to continue falling in 1998 as an outcome of falling demand. Overall, the bank predicted that investment in housing starts will fall 12% in 1998-1999.

The report also forecasted that the business sector will grow by 2% in 1998, while unemployment would rise to an average of 9%. At the same time, the balance of payments deficit is expected to shrink this year to $2.7 billion from $3.6b. in 1997.

Travelers, Citicorp in $70b. merger

Citicorp agreed yesterday to merge with Travelers Group Inc., forming the world's biggest financial company in a stock swap valued at about $70 billion.

Citigroup, as the company will be called, will have more than 100 million customers in 100 countries, with businesses including commercial banking, insurance, mutual funds, securities trading and investment banking. It will have operating income of about $7.5 billion, the companies said.

The merger comes as banks, securities firms and insurers combine at a record pace and as the 1933 US law that separated banks from brokers crumbles.

Travelers said it will apply to the Federal Reserve to become a bank holding company. Analysts said the transaction will give Citicorp more outlets to sell to US consumers and give Travelers greater access to international consumers.

"It's been clear to me for quite some time that [Citicorp] failed to build a domestic franchise, and now they've addressed that issue big time," said Lawrence Cohn, a bank analyst at Ryan, Beck & Co.

For Travelers, which built a financial services giant that provides products ranging from insurance to investment banking, the combination with Citicorp provides access to an international retail business.

Travelers bought Salomon Inc. for $9.3b. in November. "For Salomon Smith Barney, it's an opportunity to sell overseas," said Thomas Facciola, an analyst at Lehman Brothers Inc.

Travelers investors will keep their shares and Citicorp stockholders get 2.5 shares of the company for each of their shares, valuing the second-largest US bank at $154.22 a share.

Citigroup will be 50 percent owned by investors of each firm. Citicorp shares rose 7 1/8 in European trading to 150. Travelers advanced 7/16 to 61 11/16 Friday.

Analysts said cost savings would come from cutbacks in areas such as Citicorp's asset-management business.

(Bloomberg)

Expert: High-tech R&D may move abroad

By NINA GILBERT

High-tech companies here with multinational links may be forced to move their research and development branches abroad due to the shortfall in funds this year, Manufacturers Association director-general Yoram Belizovsky said yesterday.

This will result in great harm to Israel's exports, he added.

Some 100 high-tech companies are to take part today in an emergency meeting in Tel Aviv to discuss the situation with Chief Scientist Orna Berry.

The Industry and Trade Ministry's R&D budget has been reduced by 10 percent nominally and 17% in real terms this year, while demand has risen 36%. The shortfall this year is expected to amount to NIS 700 million. In 1997, some NIS 1.35 billion in R&D funds were approved.

According to Berry, if the funds are not found, the ministry will have to adjust criteria in order to most economically disburse the funds. Berry's efforts to elicit more funds from the Treasury have not borne results.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has said that there was no other choice, and that the cut in funding was part of the government's effort to cut the budget deficit following the spending wave by the previous Labor government.

According to Belizovsky, excluding royalties, this year the government is investing only NIS 520m. in R&D, the lowest level in six years.

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- EILAT: Hacanion Ha'adom - Sd. Hatemarim
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- BEN-GURION AIRPORT: Terminal

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- ✔ Vehicle owners going to Sinai without their vehicle are recommended to leave it in a parking lot in Eilat (the Egged or Shekem square, etc.) and to come to the crossing post by public transport. Vehicles may not be parked at the border post.
- ✔ A new immigrant's laissez-passer will not be accepted at the Egyptian post - Bring also a foreign passport or have an Egyptian visa in your passport.
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THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT
By Greer Fay Cashman

7.4 The third lecture in the series **Scientists as Intellectuals** will be held at the Bloomfield Science Museum, Jerusalem.

7.4 **A lecture/discussion on Computer Communications in Israel – Where it Started and Where It's Headed** will be held in the presence of Science Minister Michael Eitan in conjunction with the inauguration of the Computer Communications Network. The event will be held at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, 4 Antkolski Street, Tel Aviv.

8.4 **The 6th Annual Edward W. Joseph Memorial Symposium on Medical Physics and Medical Instrumentation** will take place at the Jerusalem College of Technology – Machon Lev. This year's symposium will be devoted to the collaboration of the academy and the medical engineering industry.

19.4 **The annual general meeting of Clal Insurance** will meet at its headquarters, 48 Petah Tikva Road, Tel Aviv. The agenda includes approval of the interim dividend paid in 1997 as the final dividend.

20.4 To celebrate its authorization to award a bachelor's degree in computer studies, Shenkar College will host a conference on **Computer Education in Academia in the 21st Century.**

20.4 Prof. Charles E. Vallhonrat of Princeton University, as guest of the David Azrieli School of Architecture at Tel Aviv University, will lecture on **The Works of Louis Kahn** in TAU's Bar-Shira Auditorium.

21.4 **An extraordinary general meeting of the Israel Diamond Exchange, Ramat Gan** will be followed by the 49th annual general meeting of the IDE.

22.4 Chief Financial Officers whose companies are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq, the London Stock Exchange and TASE will meet, in conjunction with the Israel Investor Relations Committee, to hear experts from Israel and the US talk about the importance of supplying investors with a company's financial performance. Most of the CEOs of high-tech companies listed on stock exchanges are technologists and not financial analysts, and therefore are unable to paint a proper picture for potential investors. For registration and further details, call (03) 643-0087.

24.4 **The largest ever Israel Bonds Conference** to be held in Israel will help to offset some of the losses to the tourist industry. The 1,000 member Jubilee Delegation will honor former prime ministers of Israel and former presidents of Israel bonds.

27.4 **A special course on Promoting Women in Management Positions** will begin at the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel under the auspices of the Israel Management Center. The course is designed to enable women to advance in all spheres of business.

3.5 **The 7th International Judaica Fair** will be held within the framework of Israel's jubilee celebrations and will include an arts and design exhibition by pupils and graduates of the Bezalel Academy. The venue is Binyanei Ha'uma, Jerusalem.

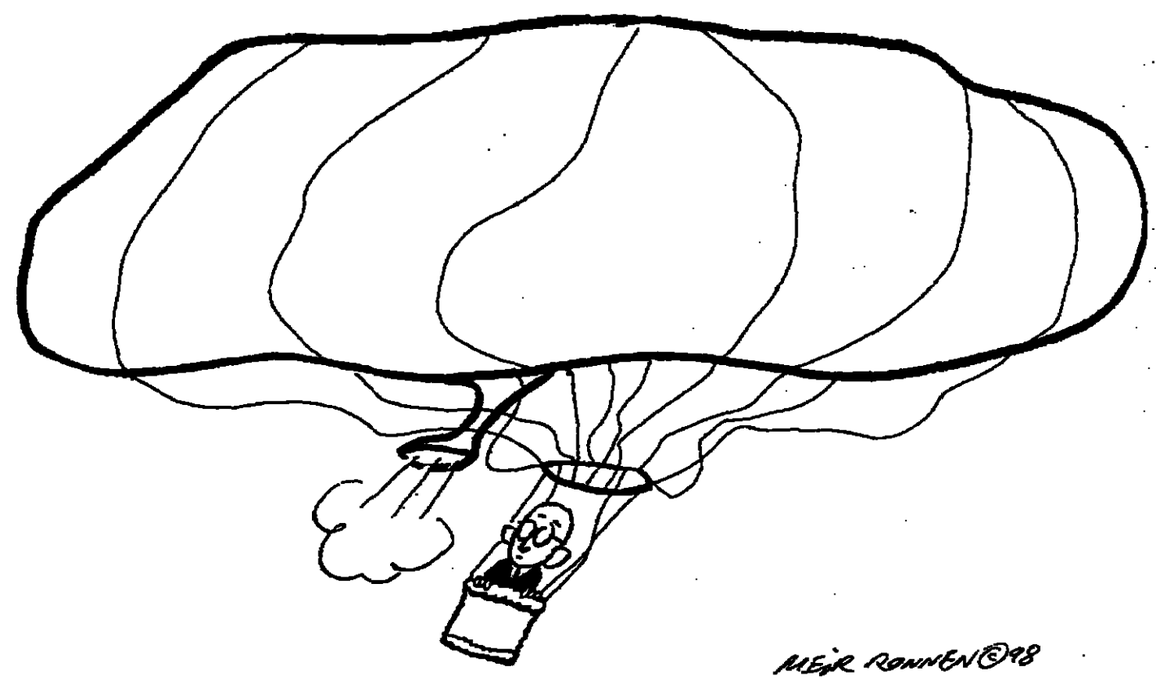
5.5 **A study day on Evaluating High-Tech Companies** is being hosted at the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv, by the Israel Venture Association. The event is intended for managers of venture-capital funds, managers of high-tech companies, finance managers, accountants, analysts, entrepreneurs and members of boards of directors.

10.5 **The Coalition of Women's Organizations** will meet at Hechal Shlomo, Jerusalem, to introduce the female candidates standing for the Jerusalem City Council to the public.

26.5 **The spring convention of the Israel Association for Technology and Science (ILA)** will be held at the Haifa Convention Center. The three-day conference will deal with subjects such as medicine, statistics, Internet and multimedia communications.

Are we there yet?

With inflation plunging below official targets, analysts say the Bank of Israel must announce its real schedule for achieving European-standard price stability. Dan Gerstenfeld reports



Politicians, it is well known, don't usually feel fully committed to fulfilling promises. Yet even the most slippery policy-makers realize that there are several issues on which the government must clearly make a stand and actions must follow.

The inflation target, which is set by the government, is an example of a commitment made by politicians. Despite the fact that the target is only a declarative measure, policy makers seem bound to meeting it.

The inflation target is taken more seriously than other declarations made by politicians because the Bank of Israel is committed to act according to the targets set by the government. It is therefore no coincidence that the central bank has been fighting constantly to try to convince the Finance Ministry to adopt a more ambitious target.

The government also realizes that in the age of globalization, a failure to meet the target could lead to a direct punishment from foreign investors, whose involvement in the local economy is seen as crucial. Irresponsible monetary and fiscal policy would force these investors to reconsider their activities here. In an extreme situation, this could lead to a speculative attack on the local currency, which would ultimately force the government to change its ways.

The strongest supporter of lower inflation targets is Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who, whenever the opportunity arises, states his commitment to lowering inflation. Since his appointment six-and-a-half years ago, he has been seen as a fearless fighter against rising prices, despite growing criticism from politicians and industrialists.

Armed with an inflation target set by the government and a commitment to reach a "Western European" inflation level by the year 2001, Frenkel made every possible effort to kill the beast.

Now, just as he is about to emerge victorious from his lengthy war on the weak-shekel lobby, Frenkel is faced with a ridiculous situation, whereby fulfilling his obligation to meet the inflation target would actually force him to abandon the fight.

With a slowing local economy as a backdrop, accompanied by falling prices of imported goods in the wake of the Asian crisis, inflation is set to fall sharply this year to 6 percent or even less – well below the official target for 1998 of 7% to 10%.

The latest evidence of this came three weeks ago when the February consumer price index was released. It surprised even the most optimistic analysts: The inflation figure dropped 0.1% driving the CPI for the last previous months to only 5.6%.

For Israelis who'd grown accustomed to a recent annual inflation of 10% or more, the full implications of the new situation are still not yet completely clear. Those citizens who saw their earnings losing some 12% to 13% of their value each year, find it hard to adjust to an inflation environment of less than 6%.

The average Israeli is not the only one who is confused. The sharp fall in inflation also caught the government and the central bank unprepared, forcing them to reconsider previous plans.

The fact that the 7%-to-10% inflation target set by the government for 1998 is not relevant anymore, is obvious. Theoretically, if the government insists on 7% to 10%, it should abandon its strict stringent fiscal policy and start spending money while asking the central bank to follow suit and adopt an expansive monetary policy, highlighted by generous interest rate cuts.

Adopting such measures may allow the achievement of the target, but it stands in clear contrast to other economic aims, which the government is also committed to, including the continued advance toward lowering inflation each year, achieving inflation levels similar to those presented by members of the Organization for Economic Corporation and Development (OECD) by the year 2001 – about 4% – and obtaining sustainable price stabilization.

All this leads to the inevitable conclusion that the current inflation aim is not realistic anymore. A target of an annual 4% to 7% seems more logical, but the Treasury has refrained so far from adopting such a target.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said already that he does not believe there is a need to set a new inflation target for this year, although he stated that unless something unexpected happens, inflation will be 6% or less.

Some analysts see Neeman's inaction as a clear pointer to the fact that he is loosing confidence. "This is an outstanding example of lack of political courage," said Victor Shohet, chief economist at Ofek Securities and Investments. "Neeman admits that he doesn't have a problem with declining inflation, but he refuses to act."

Shohet and other economists believe that the main reason the government refrains from setting a new target is that politicians are afraid that such an announcement would be seen by the public as a quiet approval to another rise in unemployment.

Official sources also agree that the government's behavior is problematic. "The government is simply deceiving the public," said one source. "It stands in contrast to the basic roles of democracy."

With the lack of a clear inflation target, Frenkel is left to decide by himself which target he wants to meet, although he refuses to announce where he is aiming. While it's true the governor said that he believes inflation for the year would be slightly over 5%, he has not indicated whether such a decline would satisfy him.

"Frenkel keeps talking about transparency but his policy is misleading," said Shohet. "With no clear target, the business sector has more difficulties in deciding how to finance activities."

And the media has already begun speculating that the central bank may even be interested in achieving the target set for 2001 as soon as this year; a rare opportunity to reduce inflation in a single blow.

Recent comments by Frenkel also suggest he is already aiming at the OECD level for this year. Frenkel said more than once that the correct conditions are currently in place to allow for the speedy reduction of inflation, which would enable a period of long-term fixed prices.

One of the governor's favorite sayings is that 'It's much better to cut the dog's tail once than to slice it several times as it causes less pain.'

The main question which remains unanswered is why the dog is not being informed by the vet of his future plans.

Fishing for justice

Foreign investors' confidence in Russia's business environment is rising following a series of surprisingly impartial court rulings. Carol J. Williams reports

MURMANSK, Russia – The story of an Arizona man's ill-fated Arctic fishing camp is one of dozens, if not hundreds, of Western investments in Russia gone wrong.

It is a too-familiar tale of greedy local bureaucrats scuttling a booming business by muscling out the foreigner and grabbing his share.

As in the case of Bill Davies' Kola Salmon Marketing sport-fishing venture, the strong-arm tactics also tend to scare away paying clients.

What sets Davies' experience apart is that he fought back through Russia's fledgling justice system and appears to have won. After an expensive and arduous journey through Russian and international legal channels, Davies and his Russian partner have wrested a reversal of an earlier judgment from the Murmansk Regional Court and been awarded more than $900,000 in lost profits and legal costs.

Russia's days of shotgun justice are likely still far from over, but the Murmansk ruling and other recent decisions upholding the rights of foreign investors are bolstering faith in the work-in-progress that is the Russian court system.

"Last year, government entities lost more than half of the lawsuits brought against them in privatization and commercial disputes," says Rafael P. Akopov, head of legal operations for the Moscow investment brokerage Renaissance Capital Group.

Investors represented by Renaissance won a watershed decision from a provincial arbitration court in the town of Lipetsk last year that allowed them to eventually gain representation on the board of directors at the Novolipetsk Metallurgical Enterprise in which they held 40 percent of the shares. Local courts in the one-industry town 200 miles south of Moscow had earlier sided with the steelmaker's director in his resistance to ceding power to the major shareholders.

"This was a key indication for us that there is change occurring in the right direction," says Akopov, noting that the investment group's success came after it pursued 14 cases of litigation.

Akopov concedes that the quality of justice is uneven across vast Russia but describes Moscow courts as developed enough to be above the bribery and influence of officialdom that still prevail in more far-flung regions.

"But even in the provinces, I would describe the predisposition of judges to back local authorities as more of a cultural phenomenon than outright corruption," he said. "They live in the same housing blocks, their kids play soccer together, it's easy for a sentiment to develop that it's 'our community' against some outsiders."

Such has been the case in Davies' nearly 3-year-old dispute with the Lovozero district of the Murmansk region. In 1993, Lovozero officials sold him exclusive rights to fish the Varzina River for its huge Atlantic salmon for $50,000 a year for five years. Barely a year later, two other sport-fishing companies were also sold access to the bountiful Varzina, one a stone's throw from Davies' $1,000-a-day adventure camp.

"The Lovozero authorities acted surprised that we considered their deals with other companies to be violations of our contract for exclusive access," recalls Mikhail Raditsky, Davies' partner in the fishing venture. "They tried to argue that 'exclusive' means something different here."

Kola Salmon Marketing has consisted of a tiny Murmansk office since June 1995, when a helicopter dropped into the remote camp with masked, machine-gun-toting security guards from the Lovozero administration to run Davies and his stunned clients off the river – their response to the legal actions Davies had initiated.

Davies had filed suit against the Lovozero district alleging breach of contract, and he won on appeal to the International Court for Arbitration in Stockholm, Sweden, in late 1996.

The Murmansk Regional Court, under presiding Judge Tamara Lagutina, ruled last year that the Stockholm court's judgment that Davies was due $700,000 in lost income and more than $200,000 in court costs had no force in Russia, but the Federal Supreme Court in Moscow judged her decision erroneous and sent the case back to Murmansk.

Upon review of the high court's opinion, Lagutina ruled in favor of Davies late last month, agreeing that the district government must pay.

"She lives in Murmansk and has had to face a great deal of pressure from the (regional) administration," Davies said of Lagutina. Although the case originated in the Lovozero district, the chief protagonist in the Davies affair, former Lovozero Administrator Valentin Luntsevich, is now a vice governor for the whole Murmansk region. Because any penalties awarded to Davies would eventually come out of the regional budget, Luntsevich has lobbied intensively to get all matters involving the Davies dispute thrown out of the courts.

RUSSIA'S regional courts are purportedly independent of local governments, but one former judge notes that the influence of officialdom – especially in the provinces – can be financial as well as the result of long-standing personal contacts.

"Although the courts are paid for through the federal budget, local courts often are dependent on the regional administrations for other important supports, everything from the location of their premises to the furniture," says Olga Anissimova, a former St. Petersburg judge who is now with the Moscow office of the Coudert Bros. international law firm.

She attributes the trend toward a more responsive judiciary to both a strengthened legal foundation and to the improving pay and prestige accorded those on the bench.

"Salaries are much better now. In Moscow, an arbitration court judge can earn $1,000 a month. That isn't much by Western standards, but here it is quite a lot," Anissimova says. "Local court judges probably only earn half of that, but still this is a good salary in the regions."

Genrikh Pavda, a prominent defense attorney and head of the Russian Union of Lawyers, says another important inducement to developing a reliable judiciary is pressure from the top to make the system predictable and accountable.

"Our leadership understands the significance of foreign investment in developing the country and that foreign investment will come only when there is a favorable legal climate," Pavda says. "(Kremlin officials) have brought pressure to bear on local courts to abide by the law if any investor's rights are violated, foreign or Russian."

Arbitration courts, both local and international, have become the primary venues for resolving disputes involving Western investors, many of whom designate that type of legal recourse in their initial contracts with Russian business people or agencies in the event the partnership runs into trouble.

More than 1,600 lawsuits involving foreign citizens were registered in Russian courts of arbitration in 1997, and about 45 percent of the 1,100 resolved were decided in favor of the foreign partner, says Nonna Grebneva, spokeswoman for the federal court system.

Representatives for foreign investors, however, estimate that the proportion of successful lawsuits is much higher, noting that the majority of 500 or so cases never decided by the court were settled to the investor's satisfaction in private negotiations.

Last year's caseload was more than triple the level of five years ago, when disgruntled foreign investors were more likely to run when chased away by local partners' goon squads.

"I must say that it is my impression that many judges, though certainly not all, are doing their best to develop an independent judiciary," Davies says from his home in Mesa, Ariz. "And we should know – we've been in court in Russia 24 or 25 times."

But the proof will be in the paying, says Davies, who still faces one more likely appeal in the breach-of-contract judgment and a labyrinth of hearings and reviews on peripherally related tax cases.

"We will contest this decision and we will contest the sum (of the award)," vows the deputy regional administrator for the Lovozero district, Fedor Shveitser. "We will keep challenging as long as it takes."

(Los Angeles Times)

BUILDING BLOCKS
By Nina Gilbert

CENTER

■ A research and living center for Alzheimer's patients is to be built in Ramat Gan by Diyour Laoleh Ltd. Construction on the NIS 18 million project is to begin next month, and the center is expected to be ready in about a year and a half. The center, to be named for Sofie and Avraham Suchinsky, consists of a four-story building with some 4,200 sq.m. The ground floor will have a large lobby, a central kitchen, offices and a day center. The rest of the floors will be housing for Alzheimer's patients, including eating rooms and kitchens. The construction is to be funded through a non-profit organization established for the project.

■ A four-room apartment in the Island project in the Herzliya Marina was sold for $930,000 to an Israeli involved in the high-tech industry. The 174-sq.m. apartment has a 35-sq.m. porch, two enclosed parking spots and a storeroom. The $300m. project has 370 apartments along a 300-meter road. The project, marketed by Anglo-Saxon and Evergreen, is being built as a closed community.

■ Another project in the marina, Marina Towers, is to be marketed by Ambassador. It consists of four 12-story buildings on the beach. Prices range from $260,000 for two-room apartments to $2.5m. for duplexes.

■ The First Direct Home company sold 28 out of 45 plots for construction of single-family homes in Kadima in one evening last month. The homes will be 160 sq.m. on two floors, and will be situated on plots between 230 sq.m. and 400 sq.m. The homes, including the land, were sold at an introductory starting price of $162,000, but the prices are expected to rise in the next group of sales. The company is able to offer significantly lower prices by buying the land and arranging a group to build together without the use of a developer.

■ In Holon on Rehov Schmukit a four-room apartment on the first floor of a two-story building was sold for $217,000 by Century 21. The asking price was $230,000. The 100-sq.m. apartment, near the new shopping mall, was immediately rented for $650 a month. On Rehov Hametzuda, a three-room 70-sq.m. apartment on the second floor with an option to build on the roof was sold for $140,000. The asking price was $149,000.

HAIFA and NORTH

■ Kibbutz Beit Rimon, which is a part of the religious kibbutz movement, is building the communal settlement of Kerem Rimon on its property. The kibbutz, near the Golani Junction in the eastern Galilee, will be marketing the homes during Pessah.

Two types of cottages are being built: single-family homes with some 100 sq.m. to 130 sq.m. on 500-sq.m. plots and 100-sq.m. two-family homes on 600-sq.m. plots. Another 100 sq.m. can be added to all of the homes. Prices range from $130,000 to $180,000.

The sales office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will be taken for a tour and hosted for lunch in the kibbutz dining room. Buyers must go through an application process. Families who buy cottages will be offered discounted housing on the kibbutz while their homes are being built.

■ On Haifa's Rehov Einstein, in the Ahuza neighborhood, a three-and-a-half room, 104-sq.m. apartment was sold for $176,000 by Century 21. The apartment, on the third floor, has a spectacular view and is in excellent condition. The asking price was $179,000.

In Ramot Remez, above Neveh Sha'anan on Rehov Dubnov, a three-room, 77-sq.m. apartment with a nice kitchen was sold for $130,000. The asking price was $135,000. In Kiryat Eliezer, on Sderot Rothschild, a three-room apartment on the second floor was sold for $84,000. The asking price for the apartment, in need of extensive renovations, was $98,000.

هكذا من الأصل

TEL AVIV 100 LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
otels	410	-3.7
sael 0.1	23500	1.7
srael 1	215500	0.5
	13090	0.8
	2710	-1.5
r Mills	12850	0.8
	2420	2.5
	2810	2.8
Prop.	529	0
ance 0.1	685	-0.3
	3000	0.7
1	40000	0
5	205000	0
	995	0
quare	3980	2.8
e	3560	3.9
ectronics	57500	9.5
dustries	2020	0.5
surance	3650	3
sael 1	107.4	0.4
ments	840	0
er	2340	-6.8
1	899	0
Sea Works 0.1	953	2.8
0.1	14150	3.9
Car	605	0.3
rpriant Mort	23500	-2.1
ot Bank	412	0.5
ot Inv.	9880	1.9
2003	1210	-0.7
nagerial	3080	0.6
ystem	4820	3.5
ndustries	2120	3.3
a	3850	0
	16120	2.7
e App	1530	3.1
ael 1	2300	5.2
nd. 5	12070	4.7
0.003	6440	3.1
	69900	1.8
ael 1	56800	1.1
ael 5	273900	2
ael Mort	53400	0
ds	16030	0.2
ael Bank	11290	0.5
d Hacarmel	662	0
rim Prop.	5800	1.2
Ltd	2400	-0.8
alom 0.1	1024	1.9
Mishmar 1	3440	-0.9
Mishmar 5	15860	1.3
Dev.	8140	2.3
Holdings	8120	2
	2090	0.5
dings	545	3.9
d Chemicals	489	3.8
d Corp. 1	24800	3.5
el	703	-5.3
a	761	0
	32.2	2.8
	2040	3.7
n	404	0
ment	4400	-1.5
r	49600	2.5
der	1450	2.8
ael Insurance	221	4.1
ce Mortgage	82500	-3
	5140	2.5
ohenhim	3080	-1.6
man	599	0
ab	4040	3.2
sadria	12870	0.2
Eden	1420	0
esserton	1030	2.3
oorah Ins 1	1466	0
pester	1670	0.1
Pekon	62400	0.6
ngers Inv.	11200	6.2
ISVA REGULAR	1270	5.3
e Systems	17820	2.8
el	8350	0
ox	1770	0
mat Industries	475	1.1
ern Industries	1534	-0.6
evochemicals	2060	1.9
neraux Ins. 1	5400	1.9
ellers Inv.	12630	3.2
ac & Bldg	26100	0.8
al Industries	2060	-1.5
ael Bone	4450	-0.9
ipersol	1195	-1.1
Gran	16190	3.8
robour	786	0.1
ashot	185000	-2.7
apo	1429	-0.7
va	15950	3.3
rdan	283	2.1
ire and Cables	1381	2.7

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
ding Industries	885	-0.2
dious GD	369	9.9
ojec	2.3	4.5
Ds	56.5	0
ote-Spade	87	4.8
Dvenstein Bond B	180.5	0
dvenstein Ind.	397	0
dvenstein 2w 1	1292	0
dvenstein 2w 5	5570	0
adcom	96.5	0
Agnet	354698	0
Aller	113.5	0
	121	3.9
asha	190	-1
Aronson	86.3	0.7
Africa Hotels Bond B	57.7	2.9
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	4.3	-30.6
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	129.8	0.3
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	2086	0
Alsek Ind.	42.6	-5.1
Agis Warrant 3	693	1.5
Agis Warrant 4	158	-1.9
Agish Int?	270	-2.2
Agn Investments	146.5	-10.1
Al-Ben	114.5	1.3
Al-Ben Bond A	101	0.4
Alhe c2	157	0
Alhe w6	782	2.1
Alliance	251	3.3
Alone	525	1.7
Alony-Hetz	269	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	193	0
Alrod	7	-26.3
Alrod Warrant 1	74.5	0
Alrov Bond D	323	3.4
Alrov Warrant 5	165	0
Alstar	5035	0
Alumil	185.5	-1.6
Amanar	286	0
Amatec	13.5	3.8
Ammel Warrant 1	592	0
Amot	1217.85	0
Ampa Investments	1350	4.4
Analyst EMS	38.5	0
Angel Trade	148.5	0
Angel Trade Bond A	105	5.5
Angel Trade Bond B	59.5	0.8
Angel Trade Bond C	1.4	7.7
Angel Trade Warrant 2	591	-1.8
Apcon	310	4.5
Apcon warrant 1	2690	-0.4
Applicom	322	0
Arbitel Warrant 2	1920	-1.5
Arad	895	2.5
Arad Towels	91	-10
Aratex	236	0.4
Aratex Bond 1	248	-2
Arbatman	1040	0
Arbelian	508	0
Arpal	131.5	-0.4
Arpt	671	1.1
Ashdeion Plywood	228	5.1
Ashdeion Plywood Bond 1	127	-0.4
Ashdeion Plywood Bond 2	483	0
Ashtrom	147.5	0
Ashtrom Bond A	317	0
Ashot	168.5	0
Ashot Bond A	83	0
Ashtrom	168.5	0.3
Ashtrom Bond 1	152.5	0.3
Ashtrom Bond 2	513	-1
Ashtrom Ind.	206	0
Ashtrom Prop.	88.5	0
Astrom P Bond 1	38.7	-4.9
Astrom p warrant a	32.5	0.5
Astrum Bond C	29.5	-3.3
Astrum Warrant 2	60	0
Atlen	1917	0
Atmor	170	0
ATX	150	0
ATX Bond A	280	-0.4
Atwoon	4510	0.4
Aurd	345	0
Avarot	166	0.3
Avarot Bond A	595	0
Averbuch Formaca	450	0
Aviv	148	0.3
Aviv Bond 1	88.5	0.6
Aviv Bond 2	1.8	0
Aviner	89.5	0.6
Avnet Bond 2	50	0
Avnet Warrant 2	524	0
Avsion	469	-0.4
Avtouch	170.5	0.3
Azorim Properties Bond 3	524	3.2
Azorim Warrant A	648	12.2
Azorim Warrant B	46.4	-0.9
Badash Bond 1	333	0.9
Bank	271	-9.1
Batanine 1	117	0
Batanine Bond A	9.5	-5
Batanine Warrant 2	2696	-10
Batron	93.5	0
Bartu'assat	156	-0.4
Bartu'assat Bond A	332	-0.3
Bat	0	0
Bat Bond A	118	0
Barad	274	0
Barak	769	-2
Baramoetz	727	-3.7
Barkan	123.5	-0.4
Barsol	130.5	0
Bartal	183.5	0
Basmel Moshe	86.1	0.3
BaySide Bond 2	2580	5.6
BaySide Warrant D	1575	2.5
Bek Shemesh	242	-5.2
Belmon	171	-2
Ben Yakar Bond A	88.5	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	4758	4.5
Ben Yakar Gal	21.8	16.6
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	157	0
Beyman	979	1.2
Blu	151.5	0
Blu Bond A	813	1.5
Binar	265	0
Bin	74.5	0
Bolos Bond B	44.5	-0.4
Bolos gad warrant 1	529	5
Boyek Tichon	499	0
Bonjour		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous Brothers	137.5	5.4
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	251	0
Boulous GD Bond A	127	0.4
Brand	96.5	0
Brill	67.5	0
Brok Side	32.9	-10.1
Brosh	109	1.4
Building Bank	1814	0
Building Resou	3238	0
C Holdings	503	-1.9
C Holdings Bond 5	86	-9.9
C Holdings Warrant 3	17.1	-5
Cassares 1	5491	0
Canfel	3190	4.7
Capitel	882	10
Capital Bond A	118	0.9
Caprice	390	5.1
Cargal	691	-4.7
Carmel	563	2
Carmiel	537	-0.8
Casino	587	0.2
Catalena 1	514	0
CDI	201	-6.9
Cemontsel	538	2.1
Centre	99.5	0
Centre Bond 1	129	-0.8
Chem	586	3.5
Chayun Computers	136.5	0
Chemipel	442	5
Chin-Her	491	1
CI Systems	220	0
Cidelt	178	-1.9
Cial Computer Warrant 3	176	1.7
Cial Computers	13840	2.5
Cial Industries Bond	206	0
Cial Israel 5	484	-0.2
Cial Retail	56796	0
Cohen Beni	191.5	-10.1
Cohen Dev.	214	-0.5
Cohen Mill	152.5	-1.6
Cold Storage 1	1550	-1.9
Cold Storage 5	8200	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	245	0
Compl	218	-0.9
Compl Warrent 1	13	-7.7
Compultip	180	0
Comsech	401	2.5
Comtrans	945	0
Contal	575	0
Contractors	19796	0
Coral Beach	866	0
Credit Line	3.5	0
Credit Lines Bond A	95.5	0
Cyclone 1	1695	4.5
Cyclone Bond 1	234	0
Cyclone Bond 2	145.5	0.3
Datron	1822	0
Datron Bond 1	239	0
Delin	2.6	-3.7
Dan Rent-A-Car	760	2.6
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	168	0
Danber 1	4230	0
Danber 5	17500	-2.2
Danber Bond A	263	0
Danbar Resources	5684	0
Danbar Resources Bond B	161.5	0.3
Danber Tech.	6196	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	156	-0.6
Danel	69	-2.1
Danel Bond A	88.5	0
Danel Personnel	2690	-3
Danel Warrant 2	585	0
Danilmer Bond 1	214	0
Danilmer Bond 2	137	0
Danilmer Bond 3	95	-2.3
Danilmer Warrant C	820	1.5
Danilmer Warrant D	67	106
Danly	695	0
Dasat	99.5	0
DARBAN BOND 2	96.5	0
Darban Bond A	234	0
DARBAN W2	180	9.1
Darban Warrant 3	130	0
Daros	129.5	0
Darlon	119	0
Dash investment	881	1.3
Data	531	0
Dataview Systems	428	-0.5
Degem Systems	598	2.6
Delek Drillings	8	0
Delek Oil	1488	0
Delta 1	3220	-2.5
Delta 3	9580	0.9
Destiny	1117	2
Digel	149	-0.3
Dimont	1784	0
Dolev	365	0
Dolev Bond A	195	0
Dolev warrant 1	50	-5
Domicar	438	2.6
Domicar Bond	148	0
Dor Chem	420	0.8
Doric w1	130	0.8
Doros	57	0
Dorf el	97	2.7
Dori Engineering	483	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	137.5	1.9
Dowat Bond A	131.8	0
Dowat Shrem	1300	0
Dowat Shrem Warrant 3	57.5	-5
DSI	1458	4.7
Dubek M	2.1	0
Dubek S	2	0
Dunitz	274	1.1
DVS Industries	480	0
E & M Computing	1273	0
Edgar Ataret	92.5	-10.2
Edgar Industries	180.5	4.6
Edgar Inv. Bond C	78	0.5
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	24	0
Elbit Bond A	98	0
Elint	198	-10
Elram	382	-2.1
El Bad	1586	0
El Chaiit	713	-1
El Canit Bond 1	152	0
Elad	484	0
Elad Bond A	169.5	0.9
Elad Bond B	157.5	0
Elad c9	86.5	0
Elad w3	40.9	-4.9
Elbit Computers Bond B	123	0.8
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	741	0
Elden Tech	195	-1.1
Electronics Line	447	0
Elgar	4574	1.8
Elishav	355	0
Elitech Ind.	377	2.2
Elkom	331	-2.1
Ella	437	0
Ella Bond A	142	-0.4
Elran	3838	0
Elron Warrant 2	2438	0
Emek	127	0
Emple	574	0
Engel Const.	782	-1.5
ENE	2102	0
Eshed Robotech	228	0.9
Even	383	0
Evergreen	3215	0
Excelence	2119	0
Export Inv.	835	-2.6
Extra	144	0
Feldman	190	0
Feldman Bond A	146	0.7
Feldman Ind.	1795	0
Feldman Warrant 3	17.8	0
Fenchwanger 1	125	-0.4
Fenchwanger 2	2635	0
Fiskiel	261	-1.1
Five J Jewelery	124	0.8
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	184	0
Formica Source	320	0
Frutarom	17770	1.8
Gahelet	293	-1
Galcom	1213	0.5
Galtan	210	0
Gama	510	4.9
Gamatronic	1505	0
Gambit	111.5	2.3
Gan Shmoel Bond A	515	12.2
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	1419	1.3
Gan Shmoel	368	0
Ganel Hadar	112.5	-2.2
Gap Development	12.8	0
Gap Holdings	724	8.1
Gap Warrant 2	148	1.4
Gazit	119	0.8
Gazit Bond B	65	0
Gazit Bond C	83	0
Gibor Bond 1	62	0
Gibor Bond A	800	0
Gibor Sport	119.9	11.5
Gibor Warrant 2	190.5	0
Gilbos	136.5	0
Gilo	1434	0
Gilitek	98.1	-11.1
Gilot Otam Oil	518	0
Glob Ril	578	0.2
Golan	479	0
Gold	346	0
Golden House	236	0
Golden House Bond 1	135	0
Golex	144.9	1.4
Granit Bond	146.3	1.7
Granit Bond 2	383	9.1
Green Software	834	0
Greenberg	85.5	0
H. Electronics	1022	0
H. Mer	3971	-2.2
Habas	130	0.4
Habas Bond 1	20000	0
Hadar 1	61305	0
Hadar 5	743	6
Hadar Ins. 1	3140	5
Hadar Ins. 5	107.8	0
Haderim Bond1	990	0
Haderim Warrant1	372	1.1
Hagal	163	0
Hagal Bond B	362	-0.3
Hamelor	7.4	-2.6
Hanel	417	0
Hanel Bond A	632	0
Hasin Esh	182.5	0
Hasco	211	4.5
Hatehol 1	141	0.4
Hatehol Bond A	334	0
Hed Azl Music	10997	0
Hiron 1	42197	0.2
Hiron 5	176	0.6
HL Service Bond 2	195.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	1908	0
HL Services	132	0
Hod	641	0
Hol	126.5	0
Holit	142	-2.1
Hydrolica	579	1.8
IES Industries	63.5	0
IES Warrant 1	202	6
Ilan Gal	139.5	-0.4
Ilan Gaz Bond A	250	0.8
ILDC Bond 6	392	2.1
ILDC Hotels	184.5	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	71	3.5
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	313	0
ILDC Insurance	127	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	1277	2.5
Imco	69.9	5.5
Ind Bld Warrant 3	35.3	5.7
Ind Bldgs Rt	284	0.7
Ind.Dev.Bank C	29.93	4.2
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2950	1.1
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	1874	2.9
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	98473	0
Independence Mort	797	0
Intercosse	4450	0
Intergamma 1	16863	0
Intergemma 5		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Iscal	1688	2.5
Ispro	3958	-1.2
Isracolor	430	0
Israel Corp. 5	109000	3.4
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	133.5	0.4
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	172.5	0
Isralom	1251	0
Isralom Bond B	255	0.8
Isralom Bond C	85	0.8
Israrmco	3.5	2.9
Isras 1	5588	0.5
Isras 5	25869	0
Issras Bond A	245	-0.4
ISTA LINES	2398	-2
Jatora Bond A	180	0
Jaysour	167.5	-0.9
Jaysour Bond A	107.5	0
JEC Bond B	911	1.2
Jerusalem Mort	200	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	158	0
Jeunesse	90.2	0
JOEL	106	2.4
JOEL Bond 1A	228	0.4
JOEL Bond 2	121	0
JOEL Bond A	228	0.4
JOEL Warrant 3	2.8	-0.7
Kadmani	135	0
Kadouri	285	0
kalirice bond b	84	0
kalirice warrant 1	74	5
Kalrit	1156	0.5
Kalsati Bond A	95.5	0.7
Kalsati warrant 2	319	1.6
Kameor	631	6.1
Kazour Bond G	127	0
Kemsept	1040	-3.8
Kanal Warrant G	1.2	0
Kanicol	44.7	0
Kanicol Bond A	47	2
Kardan 1	460	3
Kardan 5	2010	0.6
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	84	0
Kedesa Chemicals	3857	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	229	0
Kenitex	354	0
Kesher	788	0
Kesher Bond A	146	0
Keter	572	0
Kind	16.5	0
Kind Bond A	30.6	0
King	332	-0.9
Kinneret	221	5.2
Kisch Kinor	170	-2
Kishrai Teufa	1117	-1
Kitai	532	-4
Kitai Bond A	158	0
Kitai Bond A	111	0
Kitai Warrant 1	8.4	0
Kli Ind. 5	7610	0.8
Koor Bond 5	156.9	1.9
Kopel	223	0
Kopel Bond 1	234	0
La Nationale Bond A	147.5	0
La Nationale Pref	97	-2
Lachish	4159	-2
Lasnont	916	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.4	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	71.5	0
Lasecs	433	0
Lavtex	801	0
Laznick Bldg	477	-0.8
Laznick Cohen Ctrs	134	0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bon	121	0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	332	0
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond	132.5	0
Leader Warrant B	100	-1
Lego	387	-1.5
Leumi Rt	86.9	-10.4
Leventhal	342	0
Levi	497	-0.2
Levi Bond A	133	0.4
Levi Bond B	82	0.6
Levi Warrant 2	70.5	-6
Levinstein Bond A	85	4.9
Levinstein Warrant 2	404	0
Levinstein	1130	0
Liber	394	0.5
Lidan	1380	-5
Lishir 1	159.5	-0.3
Lishir 5	850	-1.1
Ligad	668	-4
Ligad Bond 1	153	0
Lighterage 1	479	1.1
LMS	2462	0
Lipman	2629	0
Lipski	2741	-0.5
Lipski Bond A	167	0
Liraz Bond A	174.5	1.9
Lodan	177	0
Lodzia 1	1350	2.7
Lodzia 4	5045	1.8
Lubot Galil	39	0
Lubot Galil Bond 1	136.5	0
Lumir	3399	-1
Ma'ariv	2250	1.3
Ma'ariv Bond A	122.5	0.1
Maabarot	1253	0
Magal	1200	1.9
Magal Bond A	131.4	0
Magal Bond B	119.6	0
Magal Bond C	78.5	0.7
Magal Warrant 3	140	0
Mail	923	0
Magam	180	0
Magam Bond A	173.5	0
Magam Bond B	121.5	0
Magav	305	-1
Magna	45.2	-0.4
Magnis Warrant 1	2922	-54.5
Magor 5	8853	-0.8
Magor hldgs. Bond B	82	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	575	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	21.5	0
Maiel	400	2.5
Mail	66.5	0
Maliboi 1	518	0
Maliboi 5	3750	-2.1
Maliboi Bond B	168.5	-0.5
Malla	669	0
Man	106	0
Man Bond A	229	0
Manfur	50	-1
Marathon	113.5	0
Marathon Insured	118.5	2.1
Mario Lazniok Constr. Bond 1	164	0
Mario Lazniok Constr. Bond 2	140.5	0
Maritime Bank	1899	2.6
Maritime Bank Bond A	196.5	-0.5
Maritime Bank Bond B	136.5	1.5
Mashav	803	0.8
Mashbir	514	0
Mashov	570	5.3
Mashov	130.5	2.4
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	6.7	-8.5
Matam	1289	0
Matav Warrant 1	521	3.6
Maxima 1	329.5	0
Maxima 5	1410	0.5
Mazpark	651	0.5
Med. Hotels	80	0
Medtechnica	820	2.6
Medtechnica Bond A	127.7	0
Medtechnica Bond B	77.5	0
Medtechnica Warrant 2	2.17	4.6
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	108	0
Megasoft	57.5	0
Melinad	408	-9.9
Melr Ezra	2380	2.5
Melr Ezra Bond B	243	2.5
Melsel	374	-9.9
Melissaron Bond B	85.6	0
Melissaron Warrant 3	62	-3.8
Mendelson	226	5.1
Menorim	66.5	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6800	-0.9
Mercavit	790	0
Mercavit Warrant 2	97.5	7.1
Merhav	197	1.1
Meriavit	450	0
Middle East Tube	391	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	108.5	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	26	0
Milimor Bond A	148	0
Milimor Bond B	79	0
Milimor Warrant 2	275	-0.4
Mimsar	132	0
Mini Line	572	-1
Minrav	203	0
Mirage	128.5	0
Mirage Bond A	26.4	-5
Mirage Warrant 1	60	0
Mirrorit	19	0
Mishmar	335	0
Mishmar Bond B	144.5	0
Mishor Bond 2	2844	0
Mishor Hahol	594	0
Mitrani	142.5	-2.1
Mivtach Shamir	2880	2.4
Mivtach Shamir	1148	0.3
MM Engineering	154	0
MM Engineering Bond A	114.5	-2.1
Mobil	709	0
Modiin	2	0
Moffet	900	0
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	415	0
Molett	305	-3.1
More Plastic Ind.	582	0.5
Moshkowitz	359	0
MTI Computers	492	1
Mul-T-Lock	908	0
Muls Sander	223	0
Naphetron Fund	47.3	0
Naphtha	40.3	-7.4
Naphtha Oil Exp.	25.5	0
Natour	800	0
NATSVA BOND A	95.9	0.7
Navigator	314	0
Navigator Property	453	0
Nechushtan Bond B	74.5	0
Nechushtan Prop.	197	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	117	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	75	0
Negev Cellamica	180.5	2.4
Nehushtan 1	801	0
Nehushtan 5	3795	0
Neot Aviv	7684	0
Nesua	497	0
Neve Arbel	73.5	-3.3
Nevilon Hotels	401	0
Nevlot	809	0
Nia	537	0
Nikav	1573	3.5
Nisco	1851	0
Nissan	233	0
NMC	357	-1.9
Nogal	1653	-1
Nogal Insorens	63	0.5
Nordan	12.4	0
Nordan Tech.	596	5.3
Norlolk	720	-0.3
Norlolk Bond A	141.5	0.4
Nur	83	0
NYP	838	0
Oceana	231	-0.4
Ocil Bond A	176.5	3.1
Ocil Bond B	174.5	0.7
Ocil Bond C	86.1	-2
Ocil Warrant 2	931	-10
Ocilova	714	0
Olek	188	2.5
Oler Bro	6449	0
Olfa	868	0
Opglan	81	0
Oreliav	576	0
Oil Fields	1.3	-3.2
Oil-Dok	214	0
Orrnil	282	0
Orontech	240	-0.6
Ophir	462	0
Oppenheimer	69	0
Optrans	183.5	0

*In local currencies

	LAST	CHANGE*
Oxsys	4111	0
Oxzia	247	-1.6
Oxzit Bond A	156.5	2
Orda	3728	0
Orda Bond 1	176	0
Orex	464	0
Orlell	150.5	0.3
Orlite	464	-1.1
Orlite Bond A	89	0.6
Orlite Warrant 2	87.5	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	128.8	1.5
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	145	-2.8
Ortal	260	1.2
Otzar Hashilton	19900	0.1
Oz	228	0
Oz atida	422	0
Paclar Steel	6100	0
Palkough	485	0
Parsa	646	0
Parsas	2454	1
Pan Dor	298	0
Pardes	884	0
Pardes Bond A	85	0
Passport	3026	-0.8
Paz Chen	384	-0.5
PCB	1500	1.1
Pdan Investment	59	-0.8
Pereg	115.5	0
Perichee	1180	2.5
Phoenix Ins. 5	18300	0.8
Pica Plast	453	0
Pinros	132.5	-1.9
Pinros Bond A	136.5	0
Pitkit	375	-2.5
Plason bond a	94.5	0
Plasson warrant 1	972	3.5
Plasson	3600	0
Plasto Sac	571	-2.8
Plasto Sheck Bond A	85.5	1.2
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	125	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 3	7.1	-1.4
Poalim Inv. Bond B	88.5	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2300	2.6
Poalim Investments Bond A	129	0
Point of Sale	6510	-0.3
Potek	322	0
Polgat A	248	0
Polgat B 4	924	5
Polgat Bond B	168.5	0
Polygon	337	-10.1
Polygon Bond 2	210	0
Poraz	263	2.3
Poraz Warrant 1	82	0
Port	220	0
Poseidon	99.7	4.8
Prl Hasanek	20.3	0
Prl Hasanek Bond A	38	-6.3
Pritzker	262	0
Pritzker Bond A	141	0.4
Profit	310	0
Profit Bond A	120.5	0
Python	382	-5.7
Quality Cap Mids	570	0
Rabintex	87.5	0
Ram Zur	289	0
Ramgor 1	934	7.4
Ramgor 4	2920	1
Rapak	151.5	3.1
Rapak Bond A	144	0
Reseco	861	-1.3
Retb	1.2	0
Retz	382	-4
Retz Bond A	146	0
Rev Car	112	-0.9
Revel	228	0
RDC	1148	0
RDC Bond A	135.5	0
Red Sea Hotels	660	-0.5
Regency	81.5	-0.6
Regency Bond 1	118	0.9
Regent	310	9.9
Regent Bond A	137.5	1.1
Relish	382	0
Reshel	40.5	-10
Reshel Bond B	60	-1.5
Rimoni	749	0
Rogosin	1425	-4.9
Rogozin Bond A	76.4	0.1
Rogozin Warrant

	LAST	CHANGE
Texaco	62.4375	+0.3125
Texas Instrmnts	54.25	-1.4375
Texas Utilities	41	+0.625
Textron	79.5625	+1.875
Thiokol	48.375	-0.9375
Thomas & Betts	61.75	-0.375
TimeCorp	33.375	-0.875
Time Warner	75.5625	-0.5
Times-Mirror	62.4375	-0.5625
Timken	34.8125	-0.3125
Torchmark	48.875	+1.1875
Tosco Corp	35	-0.4375
Toys R Us	29.8125	-0.375
Transamerica	119.5	+1
Transco Energy	73.5	+2.875
Travelers Grp	73	+11.3125
Tribune	70.8125	-0.625
Triton Energy	38.75	-0.4375
TWA	9.9375	-0.1875
Tyco Labs	53.8125	-0.1875
Tyler	9.125	+0.125
UAL Corp	94.5	-1.125
USG Corp	56.0625	+0.8125
UST Inc	29.4375	-1.1875
USX Marathon	38.125	+0
USX-US Steel	39.25	-1.1875
Ultramar Diam	35.5	-0.1875
Unicom Corp	34.8125	+0
Unilever PLC	43.5	+1.6875
Unilever NV	78.375	+3.8125
Union Camp	58.3125	-0.6875
Union Carbide	49.125	-0.9375
Union Pacific	57.6875	-0.3125
Unisys Corp	18.8125	-0.375
USAIR Group	72.875	-0.125
USF&G Corp	26.0625	+0.1875
US Home	44.3125	-0.375
US Surgical	33.875	+0
US Trust	67.25	+2.0625
US West	56.3125	-1.125
United Tech	97.375	+2.875
Unocal Corp	39.875	-0.8125
UF Corp	52.25	-0.1875
Valero Energy	34.6875	-0.1875
Vanan Assoc	53.8125	-1.4375
Viacom Inc	53.6875	-1.25
Vishay	22	-0.0625
Vulcan Materials	110.5	+1.3125
Wachovia	86.25	+1.375
Walgreen	35.75	+0.0625
Wal-Mart Stores	49.875	-1.625
Warner-Lambert	182	-2
Wash Gas Light	27.375	-0.5
Washington Mutu	74.6875	+0.0625
Washington Post	531	-3.6875
Waste Mgmnt Inc	32.875	-0.125
Watkins-Johnson	27	-0.4375
Weis Markets	35.5625	-0.1875
Wells Fargo	340.938	+6.8125
Wendy's Intl	28	-0.3125
Westvaco	30.8125	-0.4375
Weyerhaeuser	56.5	-0.0625
Whirlpool	67.0625	+0.9375
Whittman	20.125	+0.1875
Williams Co	39.8125	-0.6875
Winn Dixie Stos	43.25	-1.1875
Woolworth	26.5	+0.125
World Comm	43.3125	-0.5625
Wormington Ind	18.0625	-0.4375
Wrigley	84.9375	+1.1875
Xerox	108	+3
Yellow Freight	19.5	-0.375
Zenith Electron	3.25	+0.1875
Zero Co	28.875	+0

LONDON

Allied Domecq	610	+4
BAT Inds	557	+10.5
BT	567	+7
BTR	203	-5.75
Barclays	1842	+58
Bass	1182	-9
Boots	984	-9
British Airways	623	-21.5
Cable & Wire	-	-
Diageo	782	+7.5
General Electric	458.5	-5.25
Glaxo	1770	+13
Halifax	901	-10
HSBC (75p shs)	1894	+60
ICI	1095	-33
Land Securities	1066	-21
Lloyds Bank	1002	+5.5
Marks & Spencer	566	-0.5
NatWest Bank	1162	+42
Prudential	904	+4
Reuters	542.5	-7.5
Sainsbury	519	-9.5
Shell Transport	462.5	+10.25
Unilever	650	-21.5

PARIS

Accor	1650	+69
L'Air Liquide	1172	+33
[illegible]	1139	-39
Euro Disney	9.95	+0.5
Michelin B	358.1	+5.3
Moulinex	161	+1.6
Paribas	668	+19
Pernod Ricard	434	+3
Peugeot	1071	+2
Saint Gobain	1004	+0

FRANKFURT

Bayer	85.05	-0.45
Daimler-Benz	187.5	+8.9
Lufthansa	39.7	+0.2

	LAST	CHANGE
Mannesmann	1605	+3
Metallgesellschaft	41.15	+0.2
Volkswagen	1570	+34

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 6-APR-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	3.9332	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.701	0
British Pound (1)	6.1418	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0096	0
French Franc (1)	0.5994	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.746	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4293	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.6134	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.0372	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.1999	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	9033.23	+49.82
DJ Transport	3601.03	-38.23
DJ Utils	288.83	-1.52
DJ Comp	2915.6	-2.61
NYSE Industr	714.87	-4.74
NYSE Transport	535.99	-1.2
NYSE Comp	383.17	+0.09
S&P 100	536.63	-2.14
S&P Spot Index	1121.39	-1.31

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	6105.8	+41.6
Tokyo Nikkei	15705.9	+188.2
Singapore all-share index	305.9	-2.15
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	11052.6	0
Israel Index	298.25	+0.85
Paris CAC-40	3986.75	+54.73
DAX	5223.92	+46.86
Madrid	920.74	+13.92
Swiss Market Index	7827.7	+101.8
Sydney	2791.5	+20.7
Milan	1634.84	+38.03

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6673	+0.0117
Jun.future (CME)	1.6804	+0.0074
D-mark: spot	1.8404	-0.0052
Jun.future (CME)	0.5455	+0.002
S-franc: spot	1.5268	+0.0021
Jun.future (CME)	0.6604	-0.0009
Yen: spot	134.72	-0.32
Jun.future (CME)	0.007492	+1.8e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.419	-0.0006
Jun.future (CME)	0.7059	+0.001
AusDlr: spot	0.6597	+0.0016
Jun.future (CME)	0.6598	+0.0018
F-franc: spot	6.188	-0.0255
It Lire: spot	1816.5	-7
Ntg: spot	2.9731	-0.0075
AusShtg: spot	12.9674	-0.0374
Rand: spot	5.038	-0.001
ECU: spot	1.979	+0.0047

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1655	+14
Coffee (May) (CEC)	141.65	+1.1
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	306.75	-5.5
Soybeans (May) (CBOT)	633	-4.25
Sugar (May) (CEC)	9.87	+0.04
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	101.05	-1.8
Bonds Jun.future	121.875	-0.5625
S and P Jun.future	1127	-7.7

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1071	+2
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1820	+5
Brent crude oil (May)(IPE)	1387	-55

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	6.4	-0.21

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Apr)	309	+1
Silver (May)	6.37	-0.205
Platinum (Apr)	418	-0.2
Palladium (Jun)	298	-6
High-grade copper (May)	0.767	+0.0035

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	313.5	+7.55
Gold PM fix	310.5	+4.6
Silver fix	663.5	-9.5

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 6-APR-98)

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Dow Jones closes above 9000

Wall Street

Stocks closed above 9,000 for the first time, vaulting into record territory yesterday news of a *mammoth financial services* merger.

At the close of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 49.82 — or 0.5 percent — at 9,033.23. The barometer of blue-chip stocks hit 9,000 for the first time early Friday, only to close nearly 17 points short.

The record closing came little more than five months after the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled below 7,000 amid fears the bull market that began in *October 1990 had run its course.*

At one point early yesterday, the Dow surged up more than 111 points to 9,094.76.

A spree of buying followed the *announcement that Citicorp and* Travelers Group are merging in a record $70 billion deal.

The pact unites the second-biggest US bank and a leading *provider of financial services* ranging from trading stocks to insurance.

The news made Travelers Group the most-traded stock on the New *York Stock Exchange, and drove* up the values of bank and financial services stocks en masse.

"What's moving the market today is purely the financial merger," *said William P. Miller, chief* investment officer at American Express Asset Management Group in Minneapolis.

"In fact, if you take the finance stocks out of the Dow, it's down today."

Tel Aviv

Stocks rose to records for a second day yesterday as a 1.8 percent weakening of the shekel was seen boosting profits among local exporters. Drugmaker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries jumped 3.4% to NIS 159.9 and Koor Industries advanced 2.6% to NIS 466, helping to push the Maof Index of 25 largest companies up 1.81% to a record 327.59.

The shekel weakened Sunday to a record low of 3.701 against the US dollar after falling 3% last week. The volatility in currency trading is being prompted by uncertainty among traders about *the shekel after the government* removes restrictions in coming weeks on its trading, making it freely convertible, analysts said.

"When the dollar rises, that *helps profits among exporters like* high-tech and chemical companies," said Ilan Doron, head trader at Solid Financial Markets. "No doubt inflation will increase with *the devaluation, but it will be* modified by the slowdown in the economy."

Israel Chemicals, with 90% of its sales abroad, gained 4% to 4.69.

Shares of Delek Israel Fuel Corp. jumped 4% to NIS 141.5



Maof 327.59 ▲ 1.81%

Dow Jones 9033 ▲ 0.5%

FTSE 6105.8 ▲ 0.69%

Nikkei 15705.99 ▲ 1.21%

after a spokesman for investor Yitzhak Tshuva said he intends to buy Discount Investment Corp.'s 37.6% stake in the fuel distributor within days. Tshuva, who *acquired 50% of Delek in* February and March, is negotiating to pay NIS 160 a share for the holding and plans to resell the shares to a strategic partner, the *spokesman said.*

Investors see Tshuva as likely to squeeze value from his investment in Delek, said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities.

"The new owner has to pay back a lot of borrowed money" used to purchase the Delek shares, said Tsur. "He has an interest in a high return on the investment."

Shares of Discount Investment advanced 2% to NIS 98.8. Doron said the investment company is likely to post a capital gain from the sale of its stake in Delek.

Europe

The UK's FTSE 100 index ended at its fourth consecutive record high, after news of a planned merger between US financial giants Citicorp and Travelers Group sent bank shares sharply higher. The FTSE 100 closed at 6105.8, up 41.6 points, or 0.69 percent.

The German DAX closed computer trade at a new record high and above a psychologically and technically important 5,300 level. The DAX-30 index closed at 5271.65, up 48.13 points, or 0.92%. In later screen-based trade the Xetra DAX index ended at 5345.89, up 91.57 points, or 1.74%.

*French shares closed at a ses*sion-peak but off their previous all-time high set last Friday, helped by news of a mega-merger deal in the US financial sector. The CAC-40 index closed at 3986.75, up 54.73 points, or 1.39%.

Surging bank shares pushed Swiss stocks to record highs in both the blue-chip Swiss Market Index and the broad Swiss Performance Index. The Swiss market index closed at 7827.7, up 101.8 points, or 1.32%.

Italian stocks soared to close at yet another record high, lifted by a strong opening on Wall Street and abundant liquidity. The All Share Mibtel index closed at 26377, up 807 points, or 3.16%.

Dutch shares *rallied to their* third straight record close, driven by unabated investor demand and stock-specific factors that lifted *blue chip sentiment, dealers said.* The AEX index closed at 1185.53, up 23.41 points, or 2.01%.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose yesterday for the first time in four days after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party proposed its biggest spending package ever. Stock indexes in South Korea, Indonesia and other Asian markets fell.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., Sanwa Bank Ltd., Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. led the climb in Tokyo on hopes that pumping a proposed 8 trillion yen ($59 billion) into the economy would relieve pressure on Japan's fragile financial industry. The dollar slipped for the first time in 10 days against the yen after Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the government would take "drastic measures" to lift the slumping economy.

We're getting closer to what the market is asking for, even though the government is giving ground only a step at a time," said Mikio Fujiwara, a manager at Universal Securities Co.'s equity department. (Agencies)

Mark gains on talk of US economic slowdown

The dollar fell against the mark yesterday amid concern that US growth is slowing and expectations that the German economy will pick up speed in the months ahead. *Expectations for faster growth in* Germany were fueled after a report showing orders to manufacturers unexpectedly rose 0.1 percent in February.

The German weekly magazine *Focus* also said this week's German unemployment figures will show a non-seasonally adjusted decline of 193,000 jobs in March.

"The mark looks as if it's on the verge of a recovery," said Adrian Cunningham, director of economics *at Scottish Mutual Portfolio* Managers in Edinburgh, which overseas about $16 billion in assets. "There is clear evidence that European economies are picking *up and that's tending to take the* steam out of dollar-mark. I'd be looking for a [return] to the 1.80 level."

The dollar fell to 1.8409 marks from 1.8482 late Friday in London. It was little changed at 134.74 yen from 134.80, amid speculation the Bank of Japan may sell dollars to bolster the yen. In addition, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Japan is ready to take bold measures to boost the economy.

The dollar was also pulled down



Dollar 3.701 ▲ 1.82%

Basket 3.9332 ▲ 1.922%

Mark 2.0096 ▲ 2.42%

Sterling 6.1418 ▲ 1.5%

against the mark after a report that was released Friday, showing the US economy unexpectedly shed 36,000 jobs in March, fueled speculation US interest rates will stay on hold in the months ahead.

"The US economy is slowing, but not very dramatically," said *Peter von Maydell, a currency* strategist at UBS Ltd., who said "at the margin" he would be a buyer of marks. "The latest jobs figure has taken a bit of wind from the dollar."

The dollar reached *a six-and-a*half-year high of 135.47 yen Friday after Moody's Investors Service warned it may cut Japan's credit rating, reinforcing speculation Japan is tumbling into recession.

Hashimoto, speaking before the Budget Committee of the upper house of parliament, said the government would take "drastic measures" to lift the economy when deemed necessary, repeating a pledge he made at the Asia-Europe Meeting in London this past weekend. Hashimoto's comments follow US President Bill Clinton's call Friday for Japan to take a "bold course" to boost its economy. Clinton also said he would exert *"respectful but firm"* pressure on Japan to take action.

Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami, in separate interviews with the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal, also expressed* concern about the yen's decline and the weakness of domestic demand. (Bloomberg)

Coffee falls on expectations for Brazilian bumper crop

Coffee fell yesterday amid expectations for a bumper crop in Brazil, the world's largest producer, and amid waning consumer demand. Coffee roasters in the US processed 4.27 million 132-pound bags of coffee between January 1 and March 28, down from 4.4 million bags in the same period a year earlier, according to figures produced by Stamford, Connecticut-based Coffee Publications.

A milder-than-normal winter crimped demand for hot beverages in the US, the largest coffee consumer.

Coffee for May delivery fell $20 to $1,796 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Precious metals

Palladium and platinum both rose yesterday as Russian exports showed no signs of arriving in Japan at a time when consumers increasingly need the precious metals. While Japan, the world's largest platinum consumer and second biggest palladium user, may be heading towards recession, consumers such as car manufacturers are increasingly eager to buy metal in order to meet contract deadlines. Meanwhile, Russia, the world's largest palladium producer and second only to South Africa in platinum production, has failed to ship the precious metals so far this year.

Spot platinum rose $8.50 to $421.50 an ounce. Spot palladium rose $8 to $286 an ounce.

Gold rose as some analysts predicted a drop off in sales of gold by European central banks as the introduction of a single currency nears. Concern about a further *series of central bank sales, particularly from European Union coun*tries, was one of the reasons for gold's slump last year and the first few weeks of this. Analysts say concern may be misplaced because they interpret the Maastricht Treaty, under which the single currency is created, as requiring the governing council of the planned European Central *Bank to approve any gold sales or* purchases by member countries.



Gold $313.45 ▲ 3.5%

Crude Oil $14.26 ▼ 0.15%

CRB 227.98 ▼ 0.02%

Spot gold rose $2.10 to $310.35 an ounce.

Energy

Crude oil in London is seen little changed to five cents higher as traders gauge cutbacks in oil supplies by 16 oil-producing nations which amount to about 2 percent of global supply, aimed at boosting prices. Ten members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries plus six non-OPEC producers have agreed to limit oil production by about 1.5 million barrels in an effort to revive oil prices which recently traded past nine-year lows.

Benchmark Brent blend crude oil futures for May delivery closed 24 cents or 1.7% higher Friday at 14.41 a barrel. Over the week the *contract shed about 6.4% as the* volume of cutbacks announced

Others

Copper rose amid falling inventories of the metal. Copper stockpiles held in London Metal Exchange-registered warehouses fell as robust demand in the US and Europe offset growing supplies of the metal caused by sagging demand in much of Asia and increasing global production. The LME's copper stockpile fell 1,875 metric tons to 336,875 tons. While copper consumption has declined in East Asia and Japan, demand remains robust in the US and *Europe. In the US, factory orders,* excluding transportation, rose 0.2 percent in February. Copper for three months delivery rose $12.50 to $1,711.50 a metric ton on the *London Metal Exchange.* (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall as investors seek evidence of slowing growth

US bonds fell for the first time in a week as investors sought more evidence the economy is slowing enough to restrain inflation.

"We need to see evidence that the trend that appears to be in place – lower employment – continues for the next couple of months," said Zane Brown, who oversees some $10 billion at Lord Abbett & Co. Brown said bonds may have risen too far on too little evidence of slowing growth and predicts yields could climb to 5.85 percent or higher in days ahead.

Bonds rallied Friday, pushing yields to the lowest since January, after the government reported a surprise drop in jobs during March.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 5/32, or $1.56 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield up 1 basis point to 5.80%. The two-year note's yield was little changed at 5.42%.

The government reports today on wholesale inventories and consumer credit for February. More evidence of slow inflation is likely to come on Thursday, when the government releases its producer price index for March.

"The inflation data will be important," said William Kirby, co-head of government bond trading at Prudential Securities Inc. "People are looking for a confirmation of further signs of weakness," and tame inflation.



US 30-year T-bill yield

5.8 ▲ 0.01

Brown at Lord Abbett predicts there will be sufficient signs of slower growth and tame inflation to drive yields below their record low of 5.66% – the lowest since the Treasury began regular auctions of the securities in 1977 – reached in January.

Producer prices probably dropped 0.1% last month, matching the previous month's decline, according to economists.

Producer prices fell 1.7% in the 12 months ended in February. Slow inflation is good news for bond investors because it means the securities will hold more of their value.

Even so, some traders caution that bonds may fall if the Japanese government proposes a stronger plan to shore up the country's economy.

Bonds gained last week after Moody's Investors Service Inc. revised its outlook for Japan's top "Aaa" debt rating to negative from stable, citing the country's anemic domestic demand and ailing financial system. The dollar rallied, making US Treasury securities more attractive to investors who convert the bonds' proceeds into yen. Now, some investors said Japanese bondholders may sell some of their Treasuries if the yen reverses its decline amid efforts to shore up the Japanese economy.

The dollar fell against the yen yesterday after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Japan will take stronger action to revive its economy. The dollar dropped to 134.73 yen from 135.14 yen Friday. (Bloomberg)

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.540	5.530	5.590
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.4.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.8750	3.9375	—	—	3.9332
U.S. dollar	3.6466	3.7055	3.58	3.76	3.7010
German mark	1.9792	2.0112	1.94	2.04	2.0096
Pound sterling	6.0530	6.1507	5.94	6.24	6.1418
French franc	0.5903	0.5999	0.58	0.61	0.5994
Japanese yen (100)	2.7045	2.7482	2.65	2.79	2.7464
Dutch florin	1.7571	1.7855	1.72	1.82	1.7840
Swiss franc	2.3941	2.4326	2.35	2.47	2.4293
Swedish krona	0.4569	0.4643	0.44	0.48	0.4620
Norwegian krone	0.4774	0.4851	0.46	0.50	0.4844
Danish krone	0.5191	0.5275	0.51	0.54	0.5271
Finnish mark	0.6517	0.6623	0.64	0.68	0.6619
Canadian dollar	2.5747	2.6163	2.53	2.66	2.6134
Australian dollar	2.4122	2.4512	2.37	2.49	2.4473
S. African rand	0.7241	0.7356	0.65	0.74	0.7348
Belgian franc (10)	0.9534	0.9749	0.94	0.99	0.9739
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8132	2.8586	2.76	2.90	2.8565
Italian lira (1000)	2.0061	2.0385	1.97	2.07	2.0372
Jordanian dinar	5.1288	5.2116	5.06	5.41	5.1999
Egyptian pound	1.0300	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.1288
ECU	3.9297	3.9931	—	—	3.9906
Irish punt	4.9834	5.0638	4.89	5.14	5.0626
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3324	2.3701	2.29	2.41	2.3684

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Amona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 673-1901; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

Tel Aviv: Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730. Till 1 a.m. Wednesday: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Doron, 6 Gauta, Ra'anana, 771-6084.

Netanya: Clal Pharm, 60 Sderot Binyamin, 833-8091.

Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.

Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, ENT, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE	100
FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101
Magen David Adom	

In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 8551333	Kfar Sava* 9902222
Ashkelon 6551332	Nahariya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767	Netanya* 8604444
Bet Shemesh 9523133	PetahTikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5798333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
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* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon Lezion 956-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-8310, 08-855-0506.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men). Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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هكذا من الأصل

Rangers bumped from post-season

CHICAGO (AP) –The New York Rangers beat the Chicago Blackhawks 2-1 Sunday on Daniel Goneau's goal 1:24 into overtime but were eliminated from playoff contention when Ottawa defeated Buffalo.

Goneau's goal, which ended an eight-game winless streak for the Rangers (0-7-1), was set up by Niklas Sundstrom, who scored the Rangers' other goal. New York, outshot 31-17, got a strong effort from goaltender Mike Richter.

It was the first time the Rangers missed the playoffs since 1993 and just the third time since 1978. The Rangers defeated Chicago for the first time since Jan. 16, 1994 and ended a six-game winless streak (0-5-1) against the Blackhawks.

Tony Amonte scored his 200th career NHL goal for Chicago, which has lost four of its last five.

Senators 1, Sabres 0

Damian Rhodes made 21 saves and recorded his fifth shutout this season as Ottawa won on the road

Daniel Alfredsson scored the only goal when he deflected a shot from the point past Dominik Hasek in the second period as the Senators extended their unbeaten streak to four games.

Ottawa moved four points ahead of the Carolina Panthers for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference while Buffalo missed an opportunity to move into a tie for fourth place in the conference with Washington.

Rhodes played well but was hardly tested in picking up his eighth career shutout. In his last one, Rhodes stopped 23 shots in a 0-0 tie with the Pittsburgh Penguins on Jan. 20.

Devils 3, Coyotes 2

Patrik Elias scored his second goal of the game early in the third period and New Jersey snapped a season-high three-game losing streak with a home win.

Martin Brodeur, who picked up his third assist of the season on Elias' game-winner, made only 13 saves in winning his 43rd game of the season, four shy of Bernie Parent's single-season NHL record set 23 years ago.

Scott Niedermayer also scored for New Jersey, which surpassed the 100-point mark (101) for the second straight year and moved a little closer to winning its first President's Trophy for best regular season record. The Devils hold a four-point lead over both Dallas and Detroit.

Panthers 3, Penguins 1

Kirk Muller scored the game-winner with 4:30 left and Kirk McLean had 33 saves as Florida won at home against the struggling Penguins.

The victory, Florida's fifth in its last six games, couldn't prevent the Panthers from being eliminated from the playoffs for the first time in three years. Earlier in the day, Ottawa defeated Buffalo 1-0, officially knocking the Panthers from the playoff race.

Pittsburgh, which is on its way to the Northeast Division title with 91 points, lost for the third time in four games and is 1-4-2 in its last seven.

Flames 3, Mighty Ducks 3

Travis Green scored twice during a 2:57 span of the third period to erase a two-goal deficit as host Anaheim tied the Calgary Flames.

Teemu Selanne tied his own single-season club record with his league-leading 51st goal — his 36th without linemate Paul Kariya in uniform — helping Anaheim end a three-game losing streak.

Ottawa 1 0 0—1
Buffalo 0 0 0—0
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Ottawa, Alfredsson 15 (York, McEachern), 8:49. Third Period—None. Goalies—Ottawa, Rhodes. Buffalo, Hasek. A—15,881.

N.Y. Rangers 0 1 0 1—2
Chicago 0 1 0 0—1
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Chicago, Amonte 28 (Suter, Johnson), 7:16. 2, New York, Sundstrom 18 (Gretzky, Kovalev), 15:24 (pp). Third Period—None. Overtime—3, New York, Goneau 2 (Sundstrom, Stevens), 1:24. Goalies—New York, Richter. Chicago, Hackett. A—21,622.

Phoenix 0 2 0—2
New Jersey 1 1 1—3
First Period—1, New Jersey, Niedermayer 13 (Bodger, Morrison), 14:27 (pp). Second Period—2, New Jersey, Elias 17 (Andreychuk, Souray), 4:44. 3, Phoenix, Ronning 9 (Numminen, Tkaczuk), 11:05 (pp). 4, Phoenix, Roenick 23 (Diduck, Isbister), 15:01. Third Period—5, New Jersey, Elias 18 (Sykora, Brodeur), :44 (pp). Goalies—Phoenix, Waite. New Jersey, Brodeur. A—19,040.

Pittsburgh 0 0 1—1
Florida 0 1 2—3
First Period—None. Second Period—1, Florida, Garpenlov 2 (Dvorak, Ciccarelli), 10:05. Third Period—2, Pittsburgh, Dome 5 (Jagr, Hatcher), :13 (pp). 3, Florida, Muller 7 (Jovanovski, Lindsay), 15:30. 4, Florida, Svehla 8, 19:17 (en). Goalies—Pittsburgh, Barrasso. Florida, McLean. A—14,703.

Calgary 1 2 0—3
Anaheim 1 0 2—3
First Period—1, Calgary, Wiemer 11 (Iginla, Cassels), 14:43. 2, Anaheim, Selanne 51 (Young, Ruccinin), 16:59. Second Period—3, Calgary, Stillman 24 (Fleury, Patrick), 7:26 (pp). 4, Calgary, Cassels 13 (Iginla), 17:52. Third Period—5, Anaheim, Green 17 (Tmka, Marshall), 5:34 (pp). 6, Anaheim, Green 18 (Drury, Marha), 8:21. Overtime—None. Goalies—Calgary, Roloson. Anaheim, Askey. A—17,174.

Arsenal on target for Cup and League double; Robson back with Eindhoven

LONDON (Reuters) – Over the past few years Arsenal have made as much news off the pitch as on it, but as the season draws to a close they are attracting attention for all the right reasons.

Their season has come good when it counts the most and all the personal problems of players and staff have been consigned to history.

Two months ago a place in the UEFA Cup looked to be the best they could hope for as Manchester United were running away with the Premier League.

But a run of form which has seen them lose only once in 23 matches since mid-December has catapulted them into the driving seat — three points behind United but with two games in hand.

Sunday's semifinal victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers earned them a place in the FA Cup final giving them a real — if unexpected — chance of the elusive Cup and League double.

If they complete the sweep it would make them only the second club to do so twice. They first won it in 1971.

Much of the season's success has been attributed to striker Dennis Bergkamp, voted English Player of the year by his fellow professionals at the weekend.

But while it is true that the Dutchman has played some sublime football this season, Arsenal's success is down to the work of the entire team.

In the early stages of the season, Bergkamp's partnership with Ian Wright was one of the best in the league, the pair scoring 19 of Arsenal's first 20 goals. But both players have missed games through suspension and injuries, fully-stretching Arsene Wenger's resources.

The Frenchman has built a very strong squad and even without his world class strike partnership his side were good enough to defeat Wolves in relative comfort.

The winning goal in Sunday's semifinal came from striker Christopher Wreh. Wenger was quick to praise the 22-year-old, saying: "When you think he was virtually unknown two months ago it just shows how well he has done.

"He is still a young boy. But he scored against Wimbledon, got another important one at Bolton last Monday and has now taken us to the Cup Final."

Arsenal are now 4-7 favorites to win the Cup and 5-4 to lift the league title, having been 25-1 in mid-January. Manchester United remain favorites at 4-7. The odds on Arsenal winning the double were cut from 7-2 to 5-2

Robson signs with Eindhoven

Former England manager Bobby Robson will begin a second spell as PSV Eindhoven coach at the start of next season, the Dutch club said yesterday.

The 65-year-old Robson, currently director of signings at Barcelona, has agreed a one-year contract with PSV. He will succeed Dick Advocaat who is to become Glasgow Rangers coach next season.

Hall praises Newcastle's despised duo

In other news, Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall has risked fans' anger by dedicating the team's English FA Cup semifinal victory over Sheffield United on Sunday to the two officials who resigned in disgrace last month.

Hall, who returned as chairman two weeks ago after his son Douglas and previous chairman Freddy Shepherd resigned, said, "Freddy and Douglas, I hope you are listening. You are a part of this success and in many ways you are the architects."

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	46	21	9	101	208	149
x-Philadelphia	39	25	11	89	220	177
Washington	36	28	11	83	202	189
N.Y. Rangers	23	36	18	64	186	217
N.Y. Islanders	26	38	10	62	194	209
Florida	23	40	12	58	184	231
Tampa Bay	17	49	9	43	144	241
Northeast Division						
x-Pittsburgh	37	22	17	91	209	175
Boston	34	27	13	81	198	175
Buffalo	33	27	15	81	192	170
Montreal	35	30	10	80	219	190
Ottawa	30	31	14	74	175	184
Carolina	31	35	8	70	183	196

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	43	21	11	97	219	155
x-Detroit	41	28	15	97	230	181
x-St. Louis	41	26	8	90	227	179
Phoenix	38	33	12	72	206	209
Chicago	30	35	12	72	185	187
Toronto	26	40	9	61	174	219
Pacific Division						
x-Colorado	37	24	16	90	217	192
Los Angeles	34	30	11	79	210	204
San Jose	31	37	8	70	190	205
Edmonton	30	36	10	70	192	208
Calgary	25	36	14	64	200	222
Vancouver	24	39	13	61	212	258
Anaheim	24	40	12	60	187	241

x-clinched playoff berth

Biting gets South African banned from rugby union for 18 months

SYDNEY (Reuters) – South African flanker Wickus Van Heerden was suspended for 18 months yesterday for biting an opponent on the arm, one of the toughest penalties for foul play in rugby union's history.

The Coastal Sharks player was banned until September 1999 after he told a disciplinary panel that he bit New South Wales prop Richard Harry during a Super 12 championship match in Sydney on Sunday.

The ban is one of the longest in rugby history behind the record 19-month suspension handed out to Springbok prop Johan Le Roux after he bit New Zealand captain Sean Fitzpatrick's ear in 1994.

"I didn't think it was in his repertoire ... but if you do the crime, you do the time," Harry said.

Call of the Wild

The 18-month suspension of South African rugby union flanker Wickus Van Heerden for biting yesterday is just the latest in a series of violent acts in rugby union.

The more recent cases include:

1992 – All Black prop Richard Loe banned for nine months after eye-gouging an opponent while playing for Waikato against Otago in the New Zealand national championship final.

1993 – France captain Jean-Francois Tordo required 50 stitches to his face in two hours of plastic surgery after being raked by a boot in an international against South Africa.

1993 – Bath centre Phil de Glanville needed 15 stitches in his face after a stamping incident during a match against the touring New Zealand All Blacks.

1993 – England scrumhalf Kyran Bracken was forced to use crutches after All Black flanker Jamie Joseph stamped on his already-strapped ankle during the international at Twickenham.

1994 – South African prop Johan le Roux banned for 19 months after biting the ear of All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick during an international.

1994 – England fullback Jon Callard needed 25 stitches in his face after stamping incident in South Africa.

1997 – Brive and Pontypridd of Wales fined after a violent European Cup match. Three Pontypridd players arrested by police after a post-match brawl in a Brive bar.

1998 – England prop Kevin Yates suspended for six months for a biting incident which resulted in London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn requiring 25 stitches in his left ear

1998 – Coastal Sharks' South African flanker Wickus van Heerden banned for 18 months after biting New South Wales prop Richard Harry during Super-12 match in Sydney. (Reuters)

Van Heerden, 31, was one of three Coastal Sharks players to front the judiciary in the wake of Sunday's spiteful clash at the Sydney Football Stadium won by NSW 51-18.

Springbok lock Mark Andrews, one of South Africa's heroes from the 1995 World Cup victory, was sent off during the match for trampling but escaped a ban.

The Sharks' hooker, Chris Roussow, was ordered by Independent Citing Commissioner Dennis Wheelehan to appear before the committee after he studied a video of the match.

Roussow, who played for South Africa in the World Cup final after regular hooker James Dalton was suspended for fighting, was banned for three weeks after he pleaded guilty to stamping.

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Phantom shot

Devil Rays will review ground rules after Thomas HR

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Everyone had an opinion.

Frank Thomas said it was the longest home run he's ever hit, yet the ball never appeared to clear the wall down the leftfield line just 315 feet away from home plate.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays agreed the ball was hit hard enough, but argued it was foul.

The umpires huddled for nearly five minutes Saturday night before ruling the towering fly ball that struck a catwalk hanging over the outfield at Tropicana Field was a home run because, in their judgment, it caromed beyond the wall before landing in foul territory.

Knuckleballer Dennis Springer, who served up the pitch that Thomas hit, didn't know what to think.

"If you go by the rules, it's a foul ball. But that doesn't quite make it right, either," the Tampa Bay right-hander said.

"That's a home run in any other park."

Thomas didn't care what the ground rules said. He felt the ball went 500 feet, while White Sox manager Jerry Manuel declared it would have gone even farther if it hadn't hit the catwalk. "That ball was hit so far, so high, so deep, I would have had an early night if they had not called that a home run," Manuel said.

"I thought the ball was going 600 feet. I didn't think there was any way in the world they were going to call that a double or a foul ball. That ball was pumped ... But they had a good argument about the way the rules are written."

The ground rules, which Devil Rays general manager Chuck LaMar said will be reviewed, state that a ball striking the second level catwalk that runs over much of the outfield is still in play. What makes it foul or fair is where it lands.

Tampa Bay manager Larry Rothschild and third baseman Wade Boggs argued it clearly went foul. Thomas said it didn't matter how the rule read that the ball was hit so hard that the umpires had no choice but to call it a homer that tied the game 1-1 in the fourth inning.

"The umpire knew that ball was crushed. Everybody knew the ball was crushed," Thomas said. "I think Wade was just trying to get a foul ball. That's the heat of the moment. When you're trying to win, you're trying to win. But he knew the ball was crushed, too."

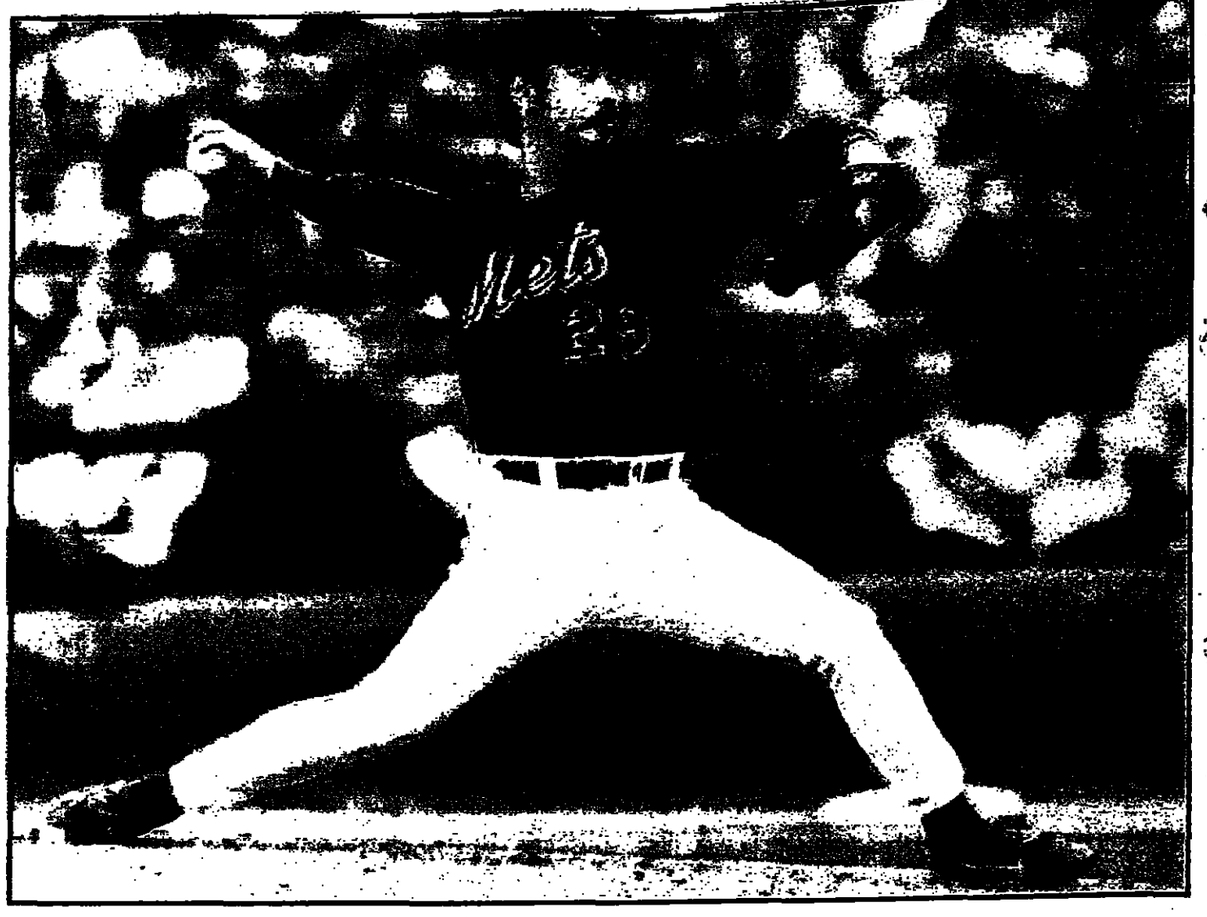
By the end of the night, it was a moot point. A protest Rothschild lodged after the call was lifted because the Devil Rays won 8-2.

The umpires were relieved the ruling hadn't decided the game.

"It was straight judgment," home plate umpire Jim McKean said. "I'm being honest with you guys. That ball was 500 feet in the air and it is very difficult for anybody to see ... We honestly thought that nobody could hit the ball that far." LaMar said he wasn't sure if the rule would, or even could, be changed in the middle of the season.

"It would have been a shame for a ball like that not to be a home run. But by the ground rules it was a foul ball," the Tampa Bay general manager said.

Yankees make it to win column



DEBUT – Mets rookie pitcher Masato Yoshii, making his first Major League start, shut down the Pirates on three hits over seven innings. New York beat Pittsburgh 7-0. (Reuters)

NEW YORK (AP) – The Yankees' first win was again in doubt, and although their owner was thousands of miles away, George Steinbrenner's presence could be felt in New York's gloomy dugout.

But after beginning Sunday as the AL's only winless team, baseball's highest-salaried squad closed out win No. 1 — a 9-7 victory in 10 innings over the Oakland Athletics.

It wasn't easy. New York blew two late-inning leads and lost closer Mariano Rivera to an injury before it was over.

"It was an important win, but even more important because it was our first one," said Jeff Nelson, who picked up the victory in relief. "I felt more nervous out there today than I did in the World Series."

New York was in danger of starting a season 0-4 for the first time since 1973, Steinbrenner's first year as owner. Although he didn't make the trip west, Steinbrenner had criticized his team after the Yankees lost their season opener at Anaheim.

After the Yankees blew a two-run lead in the ninth, Chuck Knoblauch and Derek Jeter drove in runs in the 10th inning.

With New York leading 7-5 in the ninth, Rivera was one strike away from a save when he strained his groin and had to leave.

Graeme Lloyd came on and walked Matt Stairs before Jason Giambi homered to tie it 7-7.

In the top of the inning, Oakland reliever Mike Fetters was also forced out after straining his left calf. He's expected to miss three weeks.

Indians 6, Angels 4

David Justice went 3-for-3 with his first homer and Charles Nagy pitched 7⅓ strong innings as visiting Cleveland remained the only unbeaten team in the majors.

The Indians' 5-0 start is their best since 1966, when they opened with 10 wins. Cleveland, which began the year with two wins at Seattle, has scored 42 runs, an average of 8.4 per game.

Justice homered off Jason Dickson (0-1) as the Indians completed a three-game sweep.

Red Sox 10, Mariners 5

Bret Saberhagen earned his first win since Sept. 26, 1995, when he pitched for Colorado. The two-time Cy Young winner missed all of 1996 while recovering from offseason shoulder surgery, and made six starts for Boston last year.

Saberhagen allowed four hits and two runs in five innings for the visiting Sox.

Randy Johnson (0-1) lost despite striking out 10 in six innings. He gave up seven runs and six hits, and has a 9.26 ERA after two starts.

Nomar Garciaparra and Mo Vaughn homered for Boston.

Devil Rays 5, White Sox 0

Wilson Alvarez bounced back neatly from a disappointing opening-day performance as host Tampa Bay matched the best start for an expansion team through six games.

The Devil Rays equaled the early success of Houston (1962), Kansas City (1969) and Toronto (1977) by improving to 4-2.

Facing his former team for the first time, Alvarez (1-1) allowed only three hits in 6⅔ innings. He atoned for an opening-day loss to Detroit in which he lasted just 2⅓ innings.

Jason Bere (0-1) took the loss.

Orioles 6, Tigers 3

Mike Mussina (1-1) pitched seven strong innings and Rafael Palmeiro had three RBIs as Baltimore won its fifth straight.

The Tigers lost their fifth in a row. They loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth, but Jesse Orosco earned his first save since Sept. 17, 1995, by striking out Tony Clark.

Baltimore outscored Detroit 18-6 for its first three-game home sweep of the Tigers since June 1996.

Justin Thompson (1-1) was the loser.

Twins 10, Royals 1

Eric Milton didn't make host Minnesota wait long to get something in return for Chuck Knoblauch.

The most promising of four prospects the Twins got when they traded Knoblauch in February, Milton pitched six scoreless innings in his major league debut. He allowed just six singles.

Orlando Merced drove in three runs and Pat Meares had three hits for the Twins.

Rangers 6, Blue Jays

Rusty Greer doubled home the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth as Texas overcame three Toronto homers.

Shawn Green hit a three-run homer for the Blue Jays, and Jose Canseco and Craig Grebeck had solo shots.

John Burkett (1-1) pitched 7⅔ innings for Texas, and John Wetteland, in his first appearance of the season, retired four batters for a save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Padres 8, Cardinals 7

Mark McGwire, who had homered in his first four games, was kept in the ballpark by Kevin Brown and San Diego's pitchers, and the Padres rallied for five runs in the top of the ninth.

Ken Caminiti hit a two-run homer and Quilvio Veras drove in the go-ahead run with a single in San Diego's ninth-inning comeback on Sunday.

McGwire missed a chance to become the only NL player to homer in the first five games to start the season, going 1-for-4 with two strikeouts and a walk.

On Saturday, McGwire joined Willie Mays as the only known players to homer in their first four games. Mays did it at age 39 in 1971. McGwire also tied the league record with seven home runs in a six-game stretch, dating to last season, joining George Kelly (1924), Walker Cooper (1947), Mays (1955) and Graig Nettles (1984).

Brewers 5, Marlins 2

Jeromy Burnitz and Marquis Grissom hit back-to-back homers in the eighth inning off World Series MVP Livan Hernandez as visiting Milwaukee won its fourth straight.

During pregame ceremonies, the 17 remaining Marlins from last year's team received their World Series championship rings. This year's squad then went out and lost its fifth straight since winning on opening day.

Cliff Floyd hit his fourth homer for the Marlins.

Hernandez (1-1) allowed six hits and three runs in eight innings.

Al Reyes (1-0) retired Edgar Renteria with the bases loaded in the seventh inning, and after the Marlins loaded the bases again in the ninth, Doug Jones struck out Floyd and Renteria for his first save.

Phillies 2, Braves 1

Curt Schilling struck out 15 in a five-hitter as Philadelphia beat Greg Maddux and host Atlanta.

Schilling (1-0), who pitched eight shutout innings on opening day, overpowered the Braves from the first pitch. The right-hander struck out 8 of the first 11 batters and finished within one strikeout of his career-high. He threw 128 pitches in the NL's first complete game this season.

Scott Rolen drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning for the Phillies, who managed just five hits off Maddux (0-1). Maddux pitched eight innings, striking out six and walking one.

Dodgers 1, Reds 0

Ramon Martinez lost his no-hit bid on Eddie Taubensee's one-out single in the bottom of the eighth, but Los Angeles ended its worst start in 11 years.

Martinez (1-1) retired the first 20 batters before walking Willie Greene with two outs in the seventh. Martinez's bid for his second no-hitter in four years ended when Taubensee lined a full-count pitch to right field with one out in the eighth.

Raul Mondesi led off the seventh with a home run off Mike Remlinger (0-2) — his first RBI of the season — as the Dodgers ended their season-opening slide at four games. Another loss would have matched the worst start in Los Angeles history.

Mets 7, Pirates 0

Masato Yoshii shut down visiting Pittsburgh in his major league debut, allowing just three hits in seven innings.

Yoshii, a 32-year-old right-hander, was signed by the Mets in January after going 73-51 during 13 seasons in Japan. He retired his first seven batters, showed a good fastball after getting his first strikeout in the fourth inning, walked just one and started 20 of 25 batters off with strikes.

Yoshii, the fourth Japanese pitcher currently in the major leagues, threw 88 pitches — 65 for strikes. Greg McMichael pitched the eighth and Mel Rojas finished the combined five-hitter.

Edgardo Alfonzo hit a two-run homer in the eighth and Luis Lopez had three hits for the Mets, who won for the fourth time in five games this season.

Cubs 7, Expos 2

Former Expos star Henry Rodriguez and Scott Servais hit consecutive home runs and host Chicago won its fifth straight game.

Jose Hernandez hit a two-run single and Sammy Sosa and Mark Grace had RBI singles for the Cubs, who improved to 5-1 and equaled their longest winning streak in two seasons.

Chicago started last year 0-14 and didn't win its fifth game until April 28 (5-18). The Cubs were never above .500 in 1997; in 1996, they peaked at four games over at 10-6.

Montreal fell to 0-5 for the first time since 1987.

Astros 6, Rockies 2

In Houston, the fans jumped on Darryl Kile from the start. The Houston hitters didn't take long, either.

Pitcher Shane Reynolds hit a three-run double and Craig Biggio had a two-run homer against their former teammate in the second inning.

Kile (1-1) grew up in the Astros organization and was their ace last season, winning 19 games. But he left Houston in the offseason as a free agent, signing a $24 million, three-year contract with the Rockies.

Kile was met with boos from the moment he stepped onto the field for pre-game warmups.

Reynolds (1-0) pitched seven innings and gave up nine hits, including Jeff Reed's home run and double.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2

Expansion Arizona won for the first time in franchise history, ending a five-game losing streak when Andy Benes pitched them past visiting San Francisco.

Arizona's win left Montreal as the only winless team in the majors. Tampa Bay, baseball's other first-year club, is 4-2 in the AL.

Bill Mueller hit two home runs for the Giants. But the Diamondbacks scored three times in the first inning, and Benes (1-1) and three relievers made the early lead stand up.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

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Chicago 000 000 000—0 4 0
Tampa Bay 002 120 00x—5 8 0
Bere, Rizzo (6), Karchner (8) and Krauter; Alvarez, Yan (7), Mecir (9) and Flaherty. W—Alvarez, 1-1. L—Bere, 0-1.

Detroit 020 000 010—3 10 1
Baltimore 110 040 00x—6 10 1
J.Thompson, Seger (5), Runyan (8), To.Jones (8) and Casanova; Mussina, Charlton (8), Mills (8), A.Benitez (9), Orosco (9) and Holles, Webster (9). W—Mussina, 1-1. L—J.Thompson, 1-1. Sv—Orosco (1).

Kansas City 000 000 100—1 7 2
Minnesota 000 101 17x—10 14 0
Belcher, Service (7), Whisenant (7), Pittsley (8) and Macfarlane; Milton, Swindell (7), Trombley (7), F.Rodriguez (8) and Steinbach. W—Milton, 1-0. L—Belcher, 1-1. HR—Kansas City, Heller (1).

Cleveland 012 030 000—6 9 2
Anaheim 010 000 030—4 7 0
Nagy, Mesa (8), Assenmacher (9), M.Jackson (9) and Borders; Dickson, James (5), Holtz (7), Percival (9) and Walbeck. W—Nagy, 1-0. L—Dickson, 0-1. Sv—M.Jackson (3). HRs—Cleveland, Justice (1). Anaheim, Salmon (2), Walbeck (1).

Boston 002 023 201—10 9 1
Seattle 002 002 010—5 8 0
Saberhagen, Corsi (6), Eckersley (8), Gordon (9) and Varitek; Johnson, Timlin (7), B.Wells (8), Slocumb (9) and D.Wilson. W—Saberhagen, 1-0. L—Johnson, 0-1. HRs—Boston, Garciaparra (2), M.Vaughn (2). Seattle, Segui (4), G.Hill (3).

New York 100 011 022 2—9 11 1
Oakland 200 100 112 0—7 12 1
(10 innings)
R.Mendoza, Stanton (7), M.Rivera (8), Lloyd (9), Nelson (9) and Posada; Oquist, Groom (6), T.J.Mathews (6), Fetters (8), Mohler (9), Taylor (10) and Hinch. W—Nelson, 1-0. L—Mohler, 0-1. HRs—New York, Curtis (1), Posada (1). Oakland, Giambi (1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia 000 100 010—2 5 0
Atlanta 100 000 000—1 5 1
Schilling and Lieberthal; Maddux, Embree (8) and Ed.Perez. W—Schilling, 1-0. L—Maddux, 0-1. HR—Atlanta, Ch.Jones (2).

Pittsburgh 000 000 000—0 5 1
New York 300 002 02x—7 13 1
Silva, Tabaka (7) and Kendall; Yoshii, McMichael (8), Rojas (9) and A.Castillo. W—Yoshii, 1-0. L—Silva, 0-1. HR—New York, Alfonzo (1).

Los Angeles 000 000 100—1 6 0
Cincinnati 000 000 000—0 2 1
R.Martinez, Radinsky (9) and Piazza; Remlinger, Belinda (7) and Taubensee. Fordyce (9). W—R.Martinez, 1-1. L—Remlinger, 0-2. Sv—Radinsky (1). HR—Los Angeles, Mondesi (1).

Milwaukee 000 010 022—5 8 0
Florida 000 101 000—2 10 0
Eldred, A.Reyes (7), C.Fox (8), D.Jones (9) and Matheny; L.Hernandez, Alfonseca (8) and C.Johnson. W—A.Reyes, 1-0. L—L.Hernandez, 1-1. Sv—D.Jones (1). HRs—Milwaukee, Vina (1), Burnitz (3), Grissom (1). Florida, Floyd (4).

San Diego 200 000 015—8 8 0
St. Louis 000 210 040—7 13 2
K.Brown, Boehringer (8), Hoffman (8), Miceli (9) and C.Hernandez; Stottlemyre, Painter (8), Looper (9) and Lampkin. W—Hoffman, 1-0. L—Looper, 0-1. Sv—Miceli (1). HR—San Diego, Caminiti (2).

Colorado 001 010 000—2 10 0
Houston 050 000 01x—6 6 0
Kile, Veres (7) and J.Reed; Reynolds, Magnante (8), B.Wagner (9) and Eusebio. W—Reynolds, 1-0. L—Kile, 1-1. HRs—Colorado, J.Reed (1). Houston, Biggio (1).

Montreal 000 001 001—2 5 0
Chicago 100 301 20x—7 8 0
Moore, M.Batista (4), Bennett (6), Urbina (8) and M.Hubbard; Tapani, Van Ryn (6), Telemaco (7) and Servais. W—Tapani, 1-1. L—Moore, 0-1. HRs—Montreal, Grudzielanek (1). Chicago, H.Rodriguez (2), Servais (1).

San Francisco 100 001 000—2 7 0
Arizona 200 000 00x—3 5 0
Estes, S.Reed (8) and Bochtler; Ar.Benes, Dad (8), Brow (8), F.Rodriguez (9) and Simms. W—Ar.Benes, 1-1. L—Estes, 0-1. Sv—F.Rodriguez (1). HRs—San Francisco, Mueller 2 (2).

Major League standings

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	5	1	.833	—
Tampa Bay	4	2	.667	1
Boston	3	2	.600	1½
Toronto	2	3	.400	2½
New York	1	3	.250	3
Central Division				
Cleveland	5	0	1.000	—
Kansas City	3	3	.500	2½
Chicago	2	3	.400	3
Minnesota	2	3	.400	3
Detroit	1	5	.167	4½
West Division				
Texas	3	2	.600	—
Anaheim	2	3	.400	1
Seattle	2	3	.400	1
Oakland	1	3	.250	1½

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	4	1	.800	—
Atlanta	3	2	.600	1
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	2
Florida	1	5	.167	3½
Montreal	0	5	.000	4
Central Division				
Chicago	5	1	.833	—
Milwaukee	4	1	.800	1-2
St. Louis	3	2	.600	1½
Cincinnati	3	3	.500	2
Houston	3	3	.500	2
Pittsburg	2	3	.400	2½
West Division				
Colorado	4	2	.667	—
San Diego	4	2	.667	—
San Francisco	4	2	.667	—
Los Angeles	1	4	.200	2½
Arizona	1	5	.167	3

Where to eat in Israel

EILAT

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant – The only restaurant in Israel where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Live traditional Indian dancing daily. King's Wharf Lagoona Hotel. Tel./Fax. 07-633 879, 636 6674. Open noon-3:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight

HERZLIYA PITUAH

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant – Only restaurant where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Buffet Lunch NIS 45 (children NIS 23).Open noon-3 p.m.; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Mercazim Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-954 6702, Tel./Fax 954 6769.

ATLANTIS FISH & SEA FOOD RESTAURANT – Three Course Business Lunch for only NIS 59 (incl. one glass of wine). Open daily noon-1a.m. Mercazim Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-956 8959.

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO – Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country..." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher Dairy. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkranz for reservations. 9 Horkanos. Tel. 02-623 6095.

BIRD OF PARADISE (Old City) – Fresh home made food - Dairy and vegetarian cuisine, mellow atmosphere in the heart of the Jewish Quarter, live music and poetry. Kosher 56 Chabad St. (above the Cardo) Tel. 02-626 4723.

DARNA – Authentic Moroccan Restaurant, KOSHER. Our home is your home. Business lunch; salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69. with this ad. Open 12-3 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 5406.

EUCALYPTUS– The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Evening entertainment. Rave reviews. Kosher. 7 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHLOMO - RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Brit Milahs, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Brachos. 58 King George St. Glatt Kosher/meat Tel. 02-622 3312.

KOHINOOR Kosher Indian Restaurant – Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 47 (children NIS 24) Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crowne Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel./Fax. 02-653 6667.

LITTLE JERUSALEM– The Ticho House, Kosher Dairy & Fish. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Delightful garden setting. Free entrance to the famous Anna Ticho Museum. Live Jazz Tuesday evenings. 9 HaRav Kook St. Tel. 02-624 4186

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT – Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food; Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., Fri. till 3 p.m. 16 King George St. Tel. 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER – Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. Family dining. Open during Pessah. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbanate. 27 Emek Refaim, German Colony. Tel. 02-566 6603.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM – Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting – spectacular view – private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel. 02-625 1042.

RIENZI – Candlelight dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and homemade pasta. Kosher Lmehadrin-Dairy. Open Hol Ha'Moed Pessah. Open Saturday night. 10 King David St. (Opp New Hilton Hotel). Tel. 02-622 2312.

A Jerusalem landmark - RIMON RESTAURANT Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. CAFE RIMON Dairy and Fish. Superb pastry. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glatt Kosher Lmehadrin. 4 Luntz St. (off Midrachov). Tel. 02-624 3712

SHEINERS – Kreplach Soup to Jerusalem Mixed Grill. Great food at reasonable prices, served in a cozy modern setting. Luncheon specials. Open noon-11 p.m. Glatt Kosher-Lehadrin. Kanfei Nesharim 24, Givat Shaul. Tel. 02-651-1446.

SIGMUND CORNER BISTRO/CAFE – Art deco decor. Serving kosher crepes, sandwiches, soups & brewed coffees, reasonable prices. Sun.-Thur. 7 a.m.- 1 a.m., Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Corner Azza/Ha'ari Sts. Tel 02-563-9212.

THE WILD BULL SHOR HA BAR STEAK HOUSE - Finest quality meats and generous portions. "Probably the best steaks and hamburgers in town". OPEN FOR PESSACH / Kosher. For reservations call 02-6244395. 3 Ya'abetz St., Jerusalem (behind the Bell Center)

THE 7TH PLACE – Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. Kosher. 37 Hillel St. (Beit Agron – the journalists center). Tel 02-625 4495.

TROCADERO – Vegetarian Restaurant and Coffee Shop in the elegant Judaica Center at Gush Etzion Junction. Magnificent views. Private Party facilities. Free glass of wine with ad. Open 9 a.m. - midnight & Sat. night. Kosher dairy. Tel 02-993 4040.

TZADDIK'S New York Style Deli – Jerusalem's authentic deli. Corned beef, roast beef, brisket, pastrami, all-beef hot dogs, H&H bagels, draft beer. Kosher-Mehadrin. 2 Tiferet Yisrael St., The Jewish Quarter. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tel. 02-6272148.

GALILEE-MITZPE MICHMANIM

TAIKO – Traditional Japanese home cooking known for its aesthetic and health qualities. Adjacent studio and exhibition of kimono design by the artist. A magnificent view of Lower Galilee from the peak of Mt. Kamon. Tel./Fax. 04-988 4989.

NEGEV

DUSHARA NABATEAN RESTAURANT- Pastoral atmosphere, in heart of Mamshit antiquities site of the Nabatean period. Food, decor in the spirit of the period. Open Mon-Sat. closed Fridays and holiday eves. Reservations required. Tel. 07-655-5596, 655-5743

ROSH PINA

B'BAYIT SHEL RAFA - In the heart of old Rosh Pina, find an intimate and special restaurant serving casseroles, steak and vegetarian food. Gourmet cooking and reasonable prices. Telefax: 06-6936192

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מכזאם الأصل

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Jerzy Maksymiuk leads the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion in Beethoven's third symphony, while Erez Ofer joins to play the Saint-Saens third violin concerto tonight (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

Tomer Lev's concert lecture series The Verdict of History, focusing this time around on Richard Strauss and the last Romantics, takes place tonight (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Museum.



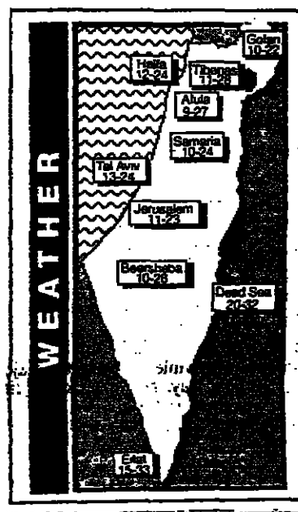
Greg Kinnear gets no sympathy from his pet dog after being beaten up in 'As Good As It Gets.'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ **AS GOOD AS IT GETS** – With this *bittersweet romantic comedy*, writer and director James L. Brooks aims right at a decent, unambitious middle ground and hits almost all of his marks. And while it may seem questionable to commend a filmmaker for shamelessly lowering the dramatic stakes (the film features a shaggy little dog, for instance, who reacts adorably and on cue to most of the characters' tantrums), the movie is so well-proportioned and entertaining in its cartoonish, commercial and unprofound away, it's easy to overlook all the things that it isn't, and doesn't try to be. The film is clearly inspired by television and centers on the unlikely relationship between Melvin (Jack Nicholson), a sour loner of a romance novelist with an obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Carol (Helen Hunt), a straight-talking single mother and waitress, burdened by her young son's serious asthma. Both won Oscars for their performances. (Parental guidance suggested.)

★★★ **LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND** – This witty, British reworking of Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* stars John Hurt as Giles De'Ath, a reclusive fogey of a London writer who falls head over heels in love with a pretty young American heartthrob (Jason Priestley), whom he first glimpses onscreen in a cheeseball teen-exploitation flick called *Hot Pants College II*. For at least the first half of the film, writer/director Richard Kwietniowski (working from a novel by Gilbert Adair) manages his material with wicked panache: at its best, the movie offers some of the funniest, most stinging commentary ever attempted on the uncomfortable attraction that intellectuals often feel for the dregs of junk-culture. (Not recommended for children.)



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	07	45	14	57	rain
Beijing	09	48	18	64	cloudy
Berlin	07	45	14	57	clear
Boston	04	39	07	45	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	59	25	77	clear
Cairo	14	57	27	81	clear
Chicago	01	34	11	52	p/cloudy
Copenhagen	04	39	11	52	rain
Frankfurt	04	39	16	61	cloudy
Geneva	05	41	13	55	p/cloudy
Helsinki	02	28	00	32	clear
Hong Kong	23	73	27	81	clear
Joburg	10	50	27	81	clear
Lisbon	10	50	17	63	cloudy
London	08	46	14	57	clear
Los Angeles	10	50	19	66	p/cloudy
Madrid	08	46	18	64	cloudy
Montreal	01	34	08	46	clear
Moscow	-02	28	03	37	snow
New York	06	43	11	52	p/cloudy
Nice	10	50	15	59	p/cloudy
Paris	06	43	13	55	p/cloudy
Prague	05	41	13	55	cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	22	72	32	90	clear
Rome	12	54	19	66	clear
San Francisco	09	48	14	57	rain
Stockholm	00	32	01	34	cloudy
Sydney	16	61	26	79	clear
Tokyo	13	55	17	63	cloudy
Toronto	-04	25	10	50	clear
Vienna	08	46	12	54	rain
Warsaw	04	39	14	57	p/cloudy
Washington	06	43	14	57	clear
Zurich	05	41	12	54	rain

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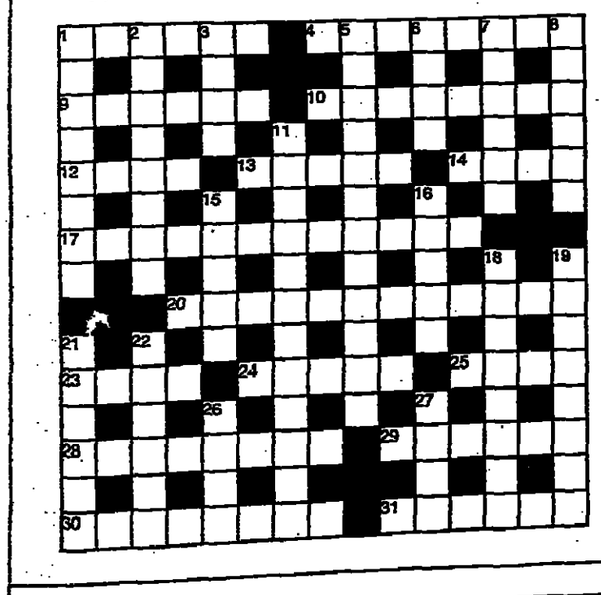
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Humble style associated with holy man (6)
4 Dreary, but done with style (8)
9 Argue about an issue (6)
10 Quality that needs raising? (8)
12 Mood turned by fate (4)
13 Animal finds fruit by river (5)
14 Its contents may get squeezed—especially in rush hours! (4)
17 *Can be trained to become a* bride (7-5)
20 Undiscovered aptitude for the double anagram (6,6)
23 One spots the experts (4)
24 Fruit of the melon variety (5)
25 Student in Lincoln qualified (4)
28 One sings his praises (8)
29 Old court official—namely one preceding *the queen* (6)
30 It has a thick skin, rougher than peel (8)
31 Gave tongue, though subdued (6)

DOWN

1 Reduce prices when German currency is at a low rate (4,4)
2 Cutters for the quarter-deck (8)
3 A direction to lower a boat (4)
5 Abuse bursts out in private (12)
6 Telephone call (4)
7 A graduate copper's calculator (6)
8 I tried a more orderly *arrangement* (6)
11 Unmarried individual (6,6)
15 Is climbing in a rough mountainous area (5)
16 Try something from lamb, say? (5)
18 Not Oxbridge material (8)
19 The elder made King of England (8)
21 Bird in the bull-ring (6)
22 *Tell King to cheer up* (6)
26 A Frenchman meets a hospital nurse (4)
27 A musical performance for one night, one concludes (4)



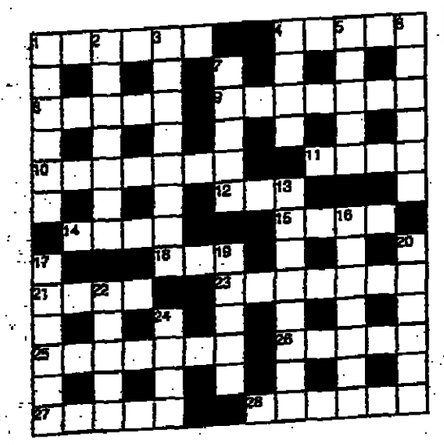
SOLUTIONS

A	D	D	R	E	S	S	A	D	D	F	U	E	L	
N	A	Y		K		L		H		P		I		
T	O	T	H	E	F	I	R	E		O	C	T	E	T
J		U		S			C		T		H		U	
G	A	M	U	T		P	R	O	F	I	T	E	E	R
E				R		N				P		G		
N	A	R	R	A	T	I	O	N		B	O	O	T	Y
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S	P	O	K	E	S	M	E	N		D	E	G	A	S
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N	A	A	F	U		O	P	E	R	A	T	I	N	G
		L		O		D		C		S		L		N
T	H	E	A	T	R	E		E	N	T	I	T	L	E

Saturday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Adaptor, 5 Ball, 7 Judas, 8 Jumble, 10 Dhow, 11 Financed, 13 Cuddly, 14 Dextro, 17 Tommyrot, 19 Feat, 21 Act One, 22 Phase, 23 Swan, 24 Trellis.

DOWN: 1 Adjudicate, 2 Android, 3 Test, 4 Rejoin, 5 Bezoaned, 6 Lilac, 9 Adroitness, 12 Play down, 15 Toenail, 16 Covert, 18 Macaw, 20 Apse.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Author (6)
4 Measure heaviness (5)
8 Lariat (5)
9 Shining (7)
10 Constituent (7)
11 Yield (4)
12 Blunder (3)
14 Needle-case (4)
15 Gain (4)
18 *Young* lion (3)
21 Declare (4)
23 Intimidate (7)
25 Communion cup (7)
26 Banal (5)
27 Fear (5)
28 Arrival (6)

DOWN

1 Purse (6)
2 Examine (7)
3 Secret (8)
4 Broad (4)
5 Angry (5)
6 Enmity (6)
7 Packing-case (5)
13 Softened (8)
16 Comprehend (7)
17 Rank (6)
19 Pugilist (5)
20 Duplicity (6)
22 Rub out (5)
24 Sort (4)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Animation
9:55 Eric's World
10:20 Fairy Tale Theater
11:15 Glad Rags
11:40 Box of Delight
12:15 Molly
12:45 Animation
14:30 Running the Halls
15:00 Escape from Jupiter

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zap 1
15:35 X Men
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Zapzaps
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Taltala – Sexual Equality
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 The Simpsons
19:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Women's Basketball – Elitzur Holon vs Elitzur Ramle
22:35 Brooklyn South
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Cartoons
6:43 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 Sinbad
12:00 Ahalan Wasahalan
12:30 Enid Blyton Adventure Stories
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Junior News
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Best Video Clips
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 *Five* with Reshet
17:30 New Zehu Zeh
18:00 Dream On You
18:30 Family and a Half
19:00 Fame L.A.
20:00 News
20:31 IDF1
21:05 Candid Camera
21:50 Dan Shilon Live
23:30 Oz – Part 5
00:00 News
00:05 Oz, contd.
00:40 Mission Impossible
1:30 Detectives on the Wave
2:15 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

17:00 Holy Koran
17:10 Children's TV
17:30 *Conan*
18:00 To Know More
19:00 Magazine
19:30 Bordertown
20:00 Le Journal
20:30 News Headlines
20:35 Game Show
21:00 What Would You Do?
21:30 Encounters
22:00 Magazine
22:10 Acapulco Bay
23:00 News in English
23:30 Movie
1:00 Metro Café
1:30 Animation

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

15:00 TV Shop
15:30 Body Electric
16:00 Basic Training
16:30 The 700 Club
17:00 Larry King
18:00 Arthur
18:23 Madeleine
18:45 Babar
19:10 Jack Hanna
19:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
20:00 Showbiz
20:30 World News Tonight
21:00 Ed Sullivan
21:25 Acapulco Heat
22:25 The Cape
23:05 Sirens
00:00 The 700 Club
00:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 Panel in Arabic
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
21:00 Criminal Justice
22:00 Telekessef
22:30 Showcase
23:00 Cinema 3

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Teen Dramas
17:00 Movie Tell a Story
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Masterpieces of the Art World
19:30 Mirror
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Through Our Eyes
21:00 Muses: The Mirror Language
21:45 Israeli Pop
22:00 Growing Old in a New Age
23:00 Upstairs Downstairs

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:35 Suddenly Susan
22:00 Yair Lapid at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 *Law and Order*
00:30 Babylon 5
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Family Rescue (1996) – a teenager moves back in with the mother who abandoned her and is raped by her boyfriend.
13:10 If Someone Had Known (1995) – a policeman arrives at the scene of a crime to discover that his daughter has killed her abusive husband.
14:35 Seeing Stars: Interview with Pamela Anderson-Lee
15:05 Season of Hope: Lemon Grove (1994) – a lemon farmer's life is in crisis when his crops fail for the third year and his marriage fails. With JoBeth Williams
16:40 Bridge of Time (1996) – three adventurers hunt a hidden El Dorado
18:15 *The Canterville Ghost* (1995) – adaptation of an Oscar Wilde story about three children who move into a castle and help a bitter ghost.
19:45 Traveller's Rest (1996) – short about a *middle-aged traveler* and her encounter with a motel owner
20:25 Ditchdigger's Daughter (1996) – a poor black father in the 1950s does everything in order to give his six daughters an education
22:00 *Criminal Pursuit* (1996) – a police woman trying to extract a confession from a rape and murder suspect disappears together with him.
23:30 Joyride (1996) – bored teenagers steal a caravand find a body in the trunk.
1:05 American Samurai (1992) – martial arts.

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
7:30 Oscar and Friends
7:40 Surprise Garden
8:05 Oliver Twist
9:00 Heathcliff
9:30 Six in Spring
9:40 Ninja Turtles
10:05 Six in Spring
10:20 *Wyrd Sisters* – new animation series about good witches
10:45 Six in Spring
11:00 Different World
11:25 Six in Spring
11:30 Cosby Show
12:00 Six in Spring
12:15 Sliders
13:00 Secret World of Alex
13:30 Oscar and Friends
13:35 Celestine
13:40 Surprise Garden
14:05 Oliver Twist
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Six in Spring
15:10 Ninja Turtles
15:50 Wyrd Sisters
16:15 Six in Spring
16:30 Different World
17:00 Cosby Show
17:25 Six in Spring
17:45 Sliders (rpt)
18:30 Secret World of Alex (rpt)
19:00 Step by Step
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Helen and the Boys
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:15 Sylvia Scarlett (1935) – Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant in their first film together. A young woman masquerading as a man and her ne'er-do-well father hit the road.
23:50 The Lion Has Wings (1939, 72 mins.) – Alexander Korda's propaganda docudrama about the events leading up to WWII. *With Merle Oberon and* Ralph Richardson.

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Simpsons Filmed on the Street News		Beverly Hills 90210	Traveller's Rest	Family Matters Married with Children The Fresh Prince of Bel Air Helen and the Boys Sweet Valley High	Playing the Odds
20:00		News				Moving Giants
20:30	Basketball	IDF1	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Beverly Hills 90210	Ditch-digger's Daughter		
21:00		Candid Camera				Eight on Eight with Yael Dan
21:30			Suddenly Susan			Wreck Detectives
22:00		Dan Shilon Live	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Criminal Pursuit		
22:30	Brooklyn South		Seinfeld		Beverly Hills 90210 Sylvia Scarlett	Human Nature
23:00			Ricki Lake			

8:05 Two Fat Ladies: Cocktail Party (rpt)
8:35 Dan Pearson Global Gardens (rpt)
9:05 Dismantling the Bomb
10:00 Carl Orff
11:30 Bohuslav Martinu: Ariandа
12:20 *Alica I Remember*
12:50 A Healthy Body: Alcoholism (rpt)
13:20 Wild, Wilder, Wildest (rpt)
14:05 Raccoon Dog
14:35 Cyberspace (rpt)
15:25 Learning to Love the Insects (rpt)
16:15 Human Nature
17:00 Open University
19:05 A Healthy Body
19:35 Playing the Odds – a look at dangerous thrills taken by Americans, from gambling in Las Vegas to swimming with sharks
20:25 Moving Giants – on rhinos in Nepal
21:00 Eight on Eight
21:30 Wreck Detectives – an adventurer and a scientist join forces, based on a rumor and a fragment of a map, to find an English ship wrecked off Cambodia in the 17th century
22:25 Human Nature
23:10 Open University

■ NBC EUROPE

6:00 News
7:00 Europe Today
10:00 European Money Wheel – business news
13:00 Internight (rpt)
14:00 Time and Again
15:00 Europe à la Carte
15:30 VIP (rpt)
16:00 Today Show
17:00 Spencer Christian's Wine Cellar
17:30 Dream House
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 Flavors of France
19:30 VIP
20:00 Europe Tonight
20:30 The Ticket
21:00 *Dateline: Inside the Mob*
22:00 Nokia Bumps and Jumps Skiing
23:00 Tonight Show
00:00 Conan O'Brian
1:00 The Ticket (rpt)
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show (rpt)

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Hindi programs
8:00 Oprah Winfrey
9:00 To the Manor Born
9:30 The X-Files
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi programs
13:00 City Lites
13:30 It's a Small World
14:00 WWF Superstars
15:00 Hindi programs
18:30 Star News
19:00 Mind Your Language
19:30 Murder, She Wrote
20:30 A Question of Answers
21:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:30 Star News (rpt)
22:00 Newhart
22:30 Baywatch
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Charlie's Angels
1:30 Santa Barbara

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:35 World Business
7:30 Window on Europe
8:30 Film '98 (rpt)
9:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
10:30 Top Gear (rpt)
11:30 Window on Europe
12:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
13:30 Earth Report: Women Entrepreneurs
14:00 The World Today
15:30 Wild World
16:00 World News & Business Report
16:30 The World Today
17:30 Holiday (rpt)
18:30 Hard Talk
19:30 Film '98 (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 Reporters (rpt)
23:10 World Business
23:30 Clothes Show
00:10 Europe Direct
1:05 World News and Business Report
2:05 USA Direct
2:30 Window on Europe

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News-through the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report
14:30 Digital Jam
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Showbiz Today
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business
22:30 Q&A
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 English League Soccer – roundup
17:30 English FA Cup Soccer – semi-final highlights
19:30 Sporting Highs and Lows
20:00 International Journal
21:00 MLS Football
22:30 *Sherman Family* Handicapped Basketball Exhibition
23:00 Carting

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Cycling
11:00 Paralympics
13:00 Eurogoals (rpt)
14:30 Soccer – World Cup Legends
15:30 Fishing
16:30 Cycling
18:00 Whitbread Round the World Race
18:30 Eurogoals
20:00 Strongest Man
21:00 Sumo
22:00 Boxing
00:00 Soccer – World Cup Legends (rpt)
1:00 Motorcycling

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Scarlatti: 3 Sonatas in E major (Pogoretich); Geminiani: Concerto Grosso in D major (Montreal Baroque Orch/Tipot); Bach: Aria arr. for Cello and Cello Ensemble; Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody no 2
7:07 Britten: Courtly *Dances from Gloriana* (Royal PO/Previn); Grieg: Improvisations on Two Norwegian Folksongs op 29 (Nockelberg); Paganini: Violin Concerto no 2 (Dubech/Monte-Carlo PO/Foster)
8:05 Verdi: *Ave Maria* from Otello (Price/RCA Opera Orch/Molinari-Fredley); Schubert: Piano Trio op 99 (Ashkenazy/Zukerman /Harrell)
9:05 Bach: Cantata no 63 (Holton/Amsterdam Baroque Choir and Orch/Koopman); Haydn: Symphony no 94 "Surprise" (Petite Bande/Kuijken); Arriaga: String Quartet no 3 (Sine Nomine); Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 1 op 15 (Kovacevich/BBC SO/Davis); Brahms: *String Quintet* op 88 (Hagen/Caussé); Lubet: 4 Songs (Schmidt/Steiner)
12:00 Light Classical
13:00 Artist of the Week - Lily Laskine, harp. Short pieces by Saint-Saens, Pierne, Faure, Roussel and Ibert
14:08 Music from Near and Far
15:00 From the Recording Studio - Allan Goldstein, piano. Debussy: Images (II); Orgad: Toccata; Liszt: Sonata in B minor
16:00 Abelard: sacred music; Handel: Aria from Jephte; Harlap: Jephte's Daughter for Horn, Choir and Soloists; Carissimi: Jephte; Tomasi: Requiem; Tomasi: 4 Fantares Liturgiques
18:00 New CDs: Bach: Orchestra Suite no 1 (Amsterdam Baroque Orch/Koopman); De Victoria: Mass a 8; J.C.Bach: 2 Sonatas for Pianoforte; Handel: Cantata; Scheln: 2 pieces from Banchetto Musicale
20:05 Hagen Quartet - Schubert: Quartet in E flat major; Stravinsky: *3 Pieces for String* Quartet; Schumann: Quartet in E minor op 41 no 1
22:00 Musical Journey

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE G.I.Jane 5, 9:45 • Rescue in Scandinavia 7 • Talk Radio 7:30 • The Life of Jesus 9:30 G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Spice World=Twice Bouskila=Hard Rain 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 10 • *The Boxer 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10* • Event Horizon 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30 • Power Rangers - Turbo 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • Amistad 7:15, 10 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 10
JERUSALEM THEATER Decon-structing Harry 7, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 5794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 5, 8:45, 9:15 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:15 • Seven Years in Tibet 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 2 11 a.m. • The Full Monty 7:30, 9:45 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • Home Alone 3=George of the Jungle 11 a.m., 1, 5 • *Anastasia (English dialogue)* 5, 7:45 • Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. Gil. ☎ 5700868 Sphere 7:15, 10 • Home Alone 3 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
SMADAR ☎ 5618188 Sweet Hereafter 6, 8 • The Thief 4, 10 • Been 2 • Pinocchio 11:30 a.m.
TEL AVIV
GAT ☎5967888 Titanic 1:30, 5:15, 9 GOR-DON ☎5236992 Breaking the Waves 4, 7, 10
GLOBUS Sphere=Man in The Iron Mask 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila=Power Rangers 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 7:15, 10 • The Boxer 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 • Hard Rain 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 10
G.G. HOD 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Live Flesh=Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30
LEV ☎5288288 Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7, 10 • Sweet Hereafter 12:15, 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • Ice Storm 2:30, 10 • Brassed Off 12 noon, 5:15, 7:45 • The Thief 12:15, 2, 5, 7:30, 10
LEV AVIV Credit Card Reservations ☎6416841 Sweet Hereafter 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • *The Thief 11 a.m., 5:15, 7:30, 9:45* • Ma Vie En Rose 2:30, 7:45, 10 • Ice Storm 7:15, 9:45 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • Been 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5 • Pinocchio 11 a.m., 2:30
LIMOR ☎5968084 Atuia Express 4:30 • Empire of the Senses 6 • The Wings of the Dove 8 • My Best Friend's Wedding 9:45
G.G. PE'ER ☎5442141 The Man in The Iron Mask=Sphere 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Boxer=Hard Rain 5, 7:30, 10 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10
RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center Jackie Brown 1:15, 4, 7, 9:45 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Anastasia *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* =George of the Jungle 11 a.m. RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House The Full Monty=Shall We Dance =Shooting Fish 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 1:45, 5:30, 9:15
TEL AVIV MUSEUM Love and Death on Long Island 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Live Flesh=The Thief 7:15, 9:15 ORI ☎8500055 Event Horizon 11:30 a.m., 7:15, 10 • The Boxer 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Power Rangers - Turbo 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Twice Bouskila 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld=Hard Rain 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Sphere=The Man in The Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
PANORAMA ☎8362020 Sphere 7, 9:30 • Power Rangers - Turbo 11 a.m., 1, 4:30 • Spiceworld 11 a.m., 1, 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11 a.m., 1, 4:30, 7 • Hard Rain 9:30
RAV-CHEN ☎8500055 Seven Years in Tibet 4:15, 6:15, 9:30 • Flubber 4, 6:45, 9:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Wag the Dog 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 8574311 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • *The Full Monty* 5, 7:15, 9:30
RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 8416898 As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:15, 6:45, 9:30 • Jackie Brown 6:45, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Anastasia *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • George of the Jungle 11 a.m., 5 • Good will Hunting 7, 9:30 • Home Alone 3 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* =Titanic=Homeward Bound *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m.
RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 8246563 Jackie Brown 6:30, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 9:30 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:15 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 4:45 • Anastasia *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • Home Alone 3 11 a.m., 1, 5
AFULA
RAV CHEN Titanic 8:30 • Spiceworld 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 9:30 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Flubber 11 a.m., 5, 7:15
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:15 • Twice Bouskila 5 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 7, 9:45
ARIEL
Event Horizon 6, 9
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Twice Bouskila=Hard Rain=Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man in The Iron Mask=L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10
ORI ☎8568073 Power Rangers - Turbo 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Boxer 7:30, 10 • Twice Bouskila 11:30 a.m. • Sphere 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
RAV CHEN ☎8661120 Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 • Flubber 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • *The Full Monty* 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3=Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* =Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729877 Sphere=The Man in The Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Boxer=Hard Rain 7:30, 10 • Power Angers - Turbo=Twice Bouskila 11:30 a.m., 5 • Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
RAV CHEN ☎6711221 As Good as It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • The Full Monty 7:30, 9:45 • Flubber 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • Home Alone 3 11 a.m., 5 • *Anastasia (Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30 • Sphere 7:15, 9:45 • Spiceworld 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • The Boxer 7:30, 9:45 • Hard Rain 7:30, 9:45 • Twice Bouskila 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Power Rangers - Turbo 11 a.m., 5 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11 a.m., 4:30
BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎6440771 Twice Bouskila=Hard Rain 5, 7:30, 10 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 Power Angers - Turbo 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Boxer 7:30, 10 • Twice Bouskila 11:30 a.m. • Sphere 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎6235278 Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30 • Seven Years in Tibet 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 11 a.m., 5 • Anastasia 11 a.m., 1, 5
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Titanic 5, 8:45 • Anastasia 11 a.m., 5 • Flubber 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • The Full Monty 10 • As Good As It Gets 7:30, 10 GIL ☎6340182 Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15 • Hard Rain 10 • Power Rangers - Turbo 11:30 a.m., 5 • Sphere 7:15, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Flubber 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 4:30, 6:30 • Titanic 8:30 • Spiceworld 10:30 a.m., 12:30 • Anastasia 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 4:30, 6:15 • Sphere 8, 10:30 • Spiceworld 4:30, 8:15
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 As Good As It Gets=Seven Years in Tibet 5, 7:30, 10
DANIEL ☎ 9544044 Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
STAR ☎ 9589086 Power Rangers - Turbo 11 a.m., 1, 4 • Anastasia 11 a.m., 1:15, 4, 6:45 • The Man in The Iron Mask 10 • Sphere 7:30, 10 • Flubber 11 a.m., 1:15, 4, 6, 7:45
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 Flubber 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7 • Titanic 9 • Spiceworld 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15 • As Good As It Gets 10 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Sphere 7:15, 10
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9982521 As Good As It Gets 9:30 • Flubber 11 a.m., 5, 7:15 • Titanic 8:30 • Spiceworld 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7577370 Flubber 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30 • Power Rangers - Turbo=Anastasia 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • As Good As It Gets 10 • Sphere 7:15, 10 • Titanic 11 a.m., 5, 8:45 • The Boxer 7:30, 10 • Spiceworld 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 10 • Twice Bouskila 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 • Hard Rain 7:30, 10 • The Man in The Iron Mask 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 10
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G.G. GI

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Japanese pitcher wins for Mets
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Rangers out of NHL playoffs
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Wizards keep playoff hopes alive

Celtics deal Knicks 4th loss in 5 games; Bulls win 12th straight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rod Strickland had his third triple-double of the season and Derek Harper missed a tying 3-pointer with six seconds left as the Washington Wizards won Sunday's fringe-of-the-playoffs showdown, 88-85 over Orlando.

Strickland had 21 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds for the Wizards (38-37), who moved into sole possession of ninth place in the Eastern Conference, one-half game behind the New Jersey Nets (38-36) in the battle for the eighth playoff berth.

The Wizards, who beat the Magic for the first time in four meetings this season, have won two in a row after a four-game losing streak. Orlando (37-38) has lost three straight.

Celtics 102, Knicks 92

Host Boston opened a 28-point lead four minutes into the second quarter, led by at least 10 the rest of the way and sent the Knicks to their fourth loss in five games.

Antoine Walker had 24 points and Ron Mercer 21 for the Celtics, who won their third straight.

Terry Cummings came off the bench to score a season-high 23 points and Allan Houston added 20 for the Knicks, whose hold on East's seventh playoff spot grows more precarious with each loss.

New York's lead over eighth-place New Jersey, which stood at 3½ games when the weekend began, has been cut to two games.

Bulls 109, Rockets 94

Michael Jordan scored 40 points and Scott Burrell and Scottie Pippen led a fourth-quarter surge as visiting Chicago extended its winning streak to 12 games — the longest in the NBA this season.

Jordan already had 30 points and was on the bench to start the fourth quarter when Burrell and Pippen heated up to combine for Chicago's next 22 points and give Chicago its seventh straight road win.

Jordan, who shot 18-of-31, returned with 6:01 to go and scored the next 10 Chicago points — including a one-handed alley-oop dunk off a 26-foot pass from Pippen to reach 40 with 1:56 left.

It was the 11th time this season Jordan scored 40 or more.

Pacers 93, Bucks 92

Host Indianapolis tied the franchise's NBA-era record with their 52nd victory of the season, beating Milwaukee when Michael Curry missed a last-second jumper.

The Pacers, who have won 52 games in three of the past four seasons, made 30 field goals and 30 free throws in a close game that featured 20 ties and 22 lead changes.

Reggie Miller led a balanced scoring attack with 18 points.r.

Lakers 105, Pistons 103 (OT)

Shaquille O'Neal scored 35 points and Nick Van Exel scored 11 of his 19 in the fourth quarter and overtime to lead visiting Los Angeles to a comeback victory.

Detroit lost its sixth straight despite Grant Hill's 27th career triple-double. Hill had 18 points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists but shot just 4-for-17 from the floor.

Eddie Jones added 17 points and O'Neal grabbed several of his 12 rebounds at crucial moments for the Lakers, who came back from an 18-point, third-quarter deficit.

Los Angeles won its fifth straight, including four straight on the road for first 4-0 trip since February 1987.



BOARD KING – Bulls' Dennis Rodman (l) grabs a rebound past Rockets' Charles Barkley. Rodman outrebounded Barkley 12-11 as Chicago beat Houston 109-94 in Sunday's action. (Reuters)

Cavaliers 94, Clippers 93

Shawn Kemp, returning from a one-game suspension, scored 25 points and rescued the sluggish Cavaliers down the stretch as Cleveland escaped with a home victory.

The Clippers nearly came all the way back from a seven-point deficit in the final 30 seconds, but were unable to foul over the final eight seconds as Cleveland managed to run out the clock.

Timberwolves 97, Hawks 96

Stephon Marbury flipped in a shot with 23.4 seconds remaining as Minnesota rallied to a road win.

The Hawks had a chance to win, but Dikembe Mutombo came up short on a 5-foot hook shot with three seconds left and the horn sounded while Blaylock and Minnesota's Kevin Garnett battled for the loose ball.

Marbury scored only nine points but had 13 assists. Sam Mitchell led Minnesota with 22 points and Garnett added 18.

Atlanta dropped three games behind Charlotte in the race for home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

76ers 116, Raptors 104

Allen Iverson scored 36 points as host Philadelphia recorded its highest point total of the season.

Iverson flirted with Philadelphia's first triple-double since 1995, chipping in nine rebounds and eight assists as the 76ers won their third straight. The 76ers' previous high point total was 115 against Vancouver on January 1.

Derrick Coleman, who has averaged 23.4 points in seven games since returning from an ankle injury, scored 21, while Theo Ratliff had 16 points, eight rebounds and six blocks.

Jazz 99, Grizzlies 93

Karl Malone scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter as Utah hung on to claim a road win.

Malone, who shot 10-of-16 from the field, also added six assists and five rebounds. Jeff Hornacek contributed 17 points and five assists. John Stockton had 11 points and eight assists and Greg Ostertag pulled down nine rebounds in 19 minutes.

The win kept Utah tied in the loss column with Seattle in the battle for the best record in the Western Conference.

Kings 105, Mavericks 99

Host Sacramento snapped a 12-game losing streak as seldom-used guard Chris Robinson, replacing the injured Mitch Richmond, scored a career-high 22 points.

Otis Thorpe had 22 points and 15 rebounds as the Kings snapped the franchise's longest losing streak since it moved to Sacramento in 1985.

SuperSonics 87, Nuggets 83

Vin Baker scored 21 points, including two in the final minute, as Seattle had to struggle to keep host Denver at nine victories. The Nuggets (9-66) have seven games remaining to get one victory, which would guarantee they won't equal the worst record in NBA history, Philadelphia's 9-73 mark in 1972-73.

Denver's Cory Alexander, who scored a season-high 25 points, hit a 3-pointer with 1:45 left to make it 79-79.

Gary Payton, shooting only 3-of-15 to that point, made a 3-pointer with 1:28 remaining, and Baker made it 84-79.

Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Man United	33	20	6	7	63	24	66
2. Arsenal	30	17	9	4	49	26	60
3. Liverpool	31	15	9	7	54	34	54
4. Chelsea	31	16	3	12	60	35	51
5. Leeds United	32	15	6	11	47	34	51
6. Blackburn	31	14	9	8	52	42	51
7. West Ham Utd	31	14	5	12	44	40	47
8. Derby County	31	13	6	12	44	41	45
9. Aston Villa	32	13	6	14	40	42	45
10. Coventry City	31	11	11	9	37	36	44
11. Southampton	32	13	4	15	41	44	43
12. Leicester City	31	10	11	10	36	33	41
13. Sheff Wed	32	11	7	14	46	58	40
14. Wimb'leden	31	9	10	12	30	34	37
15. Newcastle	31	9	9	13	28	35	36
16. Tottenham	32	9	8	15	33	49	35
17. Everton	32	8	10	14	36	47	34
18. Bolton	32	6	13	13	29	48	31
19. Barnsley	32	9	4	19	33	73	31
20. Crystal Palace	31	6	8	17	27	54	26

Late news: Utd win

Visiting Manchester United beat Blackburn Rovers 3-1.

Blackburn Rovers 1 – Chris Sutton 32 pen; Manchester United 3 – Andy Cole 56, Paul Scholes 73, David Beckham 90

Attendance: 30,547.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Miami	53	22	.707	—
New York	41	35	.539	12½
New Jersey	38	36	.514	14½
Washington	38	37	.507	15
Orlando	37	38	.493	16
Boston	34	41	.453	19
Philadelphia	29	46	.387	24
Central Division				
y-Chicago	58	17	.773	—
y-Indiana	52	23	.693	6
y-Charlotte	47	27	.635	10½
Atlanta	44	30	.595	13½
Cleveland	43	32	.573	15
Detroit	34	42	.447	24½
Milwaukee	33	42	.440	25
Toronto	15	59	.203	42½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
y-Utah	56	18	.757	—
y-San Antonio	52	23	.693	4½
y-Minnesota	39	36	.520	17½
y-Houston	37	38	.493	19½
Dallas	19	57	.250	38
Vancouver	16	58	.216	40
Denver	9	66	.128	47½
Pacific Division				
y-Seattle	57	18	.760	—
y-LA. Lakers	55	20	.733	2
y-Phoenix	49	25	.662	7½
y-Portland	41	33	.554	15½
Sacramento	27	48	.360	30
Golden State	16	59	.213	41
LA. Clippers	16	59	.213	41

x-clinched division.
y-clinched playoff berth.

Orlando 21 22 23 19—85
Washington 15 32 19 21—88
ORLANDO (85) Hardaway 3-6 0-0 8, Ha.Grant 7-14 3-3 17, Schrempf 2-8 2-2 6, Anderson 11-26 1-2 25, Harper 3-8 1-2 7, Strong 5-11 4-7 14, Price 3-7 0-0 7, Benoit 1-2 1-1 3. Totals 35-84 12-19 85.
WASHINGTON (88) Webber 11-21 0-2 22, Howard 5-15 2-2 12, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Cheaney 5-11 0-0 10, Strickland 8-18 5-6 21, Murray 5-8 2-2 17, Wallace 0-1 1-2 1, Whitney 0-0 0-0 0, Eackles 2-4 0-0 5, Ha.Grant 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-79 10-14 88.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 46 (Outlaw 12), Washington 56 (Webber 12). Assists—Orlando 24 (Harper 10), Washington 24 (Strickland 13). A—20,674.

L.A. Lakers 15 26 36 18 10—105
Detroit 30 27 22 16 8—103
L.A. LAKERS (105) Horry 3-5 2-2 8, Fox 3-9 3-5 9, O'Neal 14-25 7-10 35, Jones 5-15 3-3 17, Fisher 2-6 2-2 7, Van Exel 7-14 2-2 19, Bryant 2-11 2-2 6, Campbell 1-3 0-0 2, Bennett 1-1 0-0 2, Barry 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-91 21-27 105.
DETROIT (103) Hill 4-17 10-12 18, Reid 2-4 2-2 6, B.Williams 10-20 6-8 26, Dumars 8-14 2-2 23, Hunter 6-13 0-0 13, Mahorn 2-3 0-0 4, Stackhouse 0-6 0-0 0, J.Williams 6-7 1-2 13, O'Bannon 0-0 0-0 0, Henson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-85 21-28 103.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Los Angeles 51 (O'Neal 12), Detroit 59 (Hill 16). Assists—Los Angeles 16 (Van Exel 4), Detroit 23 (Hill 12). Technicals—Detroit illegal defense. A—22,076.

L.A. Clippers 22 32 12 27—93
Cleveland 28 24 23 27—94
L.A. CLIPPERS (93) Murray 8-17 6-6 23, Wright 3-9 2-4 8, Austin 10-17 4-5 24, Martin 1-11 2-2 4, Robinson 10-18 1-3 25, Vrankovic 0-1 2-2 2, Richardson 2-5 0-0 4, Smith 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 34-79 19-24 93.
CLEVELAND (94) Henderson 3-8 5-6 11, Kemp 7-12 11-17 25, Ilgauskas 2-7 7-8 11, Knight 2-7 3-4 7, Person 7-14 0-0 16, Anderson 3-8 3-5 9, Potapenko 3-4 0-0 6, Sura 1-4 1-2 3, Ferry 3-6 0-0 6. Totals 31-83 30-42 94.
Fouled out—Kemp. Rebounds—Los Angeles 50 (Wright 15), Cleveland 49 (Ilgauskas 10). Assists—Los Angeles 26 (Martin, Richardson 6), Cleveland 22 (Knight 8). Technicals—Vrankovic. A—15,606.

Milwaukee 30 19 25 20—92
Indiana 22 23 24 31—93
MILWAUKEE (92) Carey 7-11 2-2 16, Hill 3-6 4-7 10, Johnson 3-4 5-5 11, Allen 7-15 7-7 22, Brandon 6-11 3-4 15, Gilliam 5-8 2-3 12, Honeycutt 2-6 0-2 5, Green 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-61 23-30 92.
INDIANA (93) Mullin 6-12 2-2 16, D.Davis 2-4 1-2 5, A.Davis 4-8 8-10 16, Miller 4-10 9-9 18, Jackson 2-11 0-0 4, McKey 8-16 0-0 16, Rose 2-6 6-12 12, Best 2-4 2-2 6, Crosbere 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-73 30-37 93.
Fouled out—Hill, Rebounds—Milwaukee 40 (Hill 9), Indiana 45 (A.Davis 9). Assists—Milwaukee 21 (Brandon 7), Indiana 12 (Jackson 4). A—16,478.

Minnesota 29 25 14 29—97
Atlanta 25 29 20 19—96
MINNESOTA (97) Mitchell 9-14 4-5 22, Garnett 9-18 0-0 18, Parks 4-6 2-2 10, Peeler 4-10 1-2 10, Marbury 4-7 0-0 9, Roberts 3-9 0-2 6, Porter 5-10 3-3 15, Jordan 3-9 1-1 5, Williams 0-4 2-2 2. Totals 40-86 13-17 97.
ATLANTA (96) Brown 2-6 2-2 6, Henderson 8-17 4-6 20, Mutombo 8-13 2-4 18, Corbin 2-6 4-4 9, Blaylock 6-15 2-2 15, Recasner 5-12 4-6 16, Miller 0-0 2-4 2, Crawford 2-4 2-2 6, Barry 1-1 1-2 4. Totals 34-74 23-34 96.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 51 (Garnett 13), Atlanta 44 (Mutombo 11). Assists—Minnesota 30 (Marbury 13), Atlanta 21 (Blaylock 8). Technicals—Roberts, Peeler, Mitchell, Brown, A—15,165.

Chicago 20 24 27 38—109
Houston 21 22 23 28—94
CHICAGO (109) Pippen 8-19 5-5 20, Rodman 0-4 0-0 0, Wennington 7-12 0-0 14, Harper 3-7 0-0 8, Jordan 18-31 4-4 40, Kerr 0-3 1-1 1, Simpkins 1-3 5-6 7, Buechler 0-0 0-0 0, Burrell 6-9 0-0 15, Brown 0-1 0-0 0, Booth 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 44-91 15-18 109.
HOUSTON (94) Ellis 6-15 4-4 18, Willis 3-7 1-2 7, Olajuwon 7-14 2-2 16, Drexler 8-17 1-1 20, Maloney 1-8 0-0 3, Johnson 3-6 4-4 11, Barkley 5-9 0-2 10, Harrington 1-2 2-2 4, Price 0-2 0-0 0, Davis 0-2 0-0 0, Stephens 2-2 0-0 5, Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-79 14-17 94.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 45 (Rodman 12), Houston 51 (Olajuwon 12). Assists—Chicago 33 (Pippen, Rodman 8), Houston 29 (Barkley 5). Technicals—Barkley. A—16,285.

Toronto 17 25 32 29—104
Philadelphia 30 33 30 23—116
TORONTO (104) McGrady 7-16 0-0 14, Trent 10-16 5-5 25, Slater 1-5 7-11 9, Christie 6-16 5-7 20, A.Williams 1-5 1-2 4, Wallace 5-10 0-0 10, Billups 1-2 4-4 6, J.Thomas 0-2 0-0 0, Brown 6-12 0-0 15. Totals 37-84 22-29 104.
PHILADELPHIA (116) T.Thomas 4-8 2-4 11, Coleman 8-12 4-4 21, Ratliff 5-11 6-8 16, McKie 5-8 1-2 11, Iverson 14-25 7-7 36, Smith 0-3 2-4 2, Snow 4-7 0-0 8, Davis 2-4 2-2 6, Parker 1-4 0-0 3, S.Williams 0-3 0-0 0, Stewart 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 44-86 24-29 116.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 52 (McGrady 13), Philadelphia 49 (Iverson 9). Assists—Toronto 18 (Brown 6), Philadelphia 28 (Snow 8). Technicals—76ers illegal defense. A—15,806.

Utah 25 29 24 21—99
Vancouver 23 17 24 29—93
UTAH (99) Keefe 3-5 2-4 8, Malone 10-16 5-5 25, Foster 4-7 1-2 9, Hornacek 6-14 5-6 17, Stockton 4-8 2-5 11, Eisley 1-3 2-3 4, Ostertag 1-2 0-0 2, Anderson 3-10 0-0 6, Russell 2-4 4-5 8, Morris 4-6 0-2 9. Totals 38-75 21-33 99.
VANCOUVER (93) Abdur-Rahim 9-16 8-9 26, Smith 2-2 0-1 4, Reeves 11-19 6-10 30, Edwards 2-10 4-5 8, Mayberry 2-7 4-4 9, Hurley 1-1 2-2 4, Daniels 2-3 0-0 4, Lynch 4-7 0-0 8, Massenburg 0-3 0-0 0, Chilcutt 0-1 0-0 0, Robinson 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 33-73 26-31 93.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Utah 48 (Ostertag 9), Vancouver 46 (Abdur-Rahim 9). Assists—Utah 30 (Stockton 8), Vancouver 20 (Reeves, Edwards 4). Technicals—Utah illegal defense, Mayberry, Edwards, Vancouver coach Hill, Vancouver illegal defense, 2. A—18,068.

New York 13 24 28 29—92
Boston 30 28 23 20—102
NEW YORK (92) Johnson 3-9 5-7 11, Houston 7-15 6-7 20, Oakley 4-7 0-0 8, Starks 3-12 2-2 8, Ward 2-5 1-5 5, Mills 4-8 4-4 14, Cummings 11-18 1-2 23, Childs 0-1 0-0 0, Bowie 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 35-76 19-25 92.
BOSTON (102) McCarty 2-3 1-2 6, Walker 10-18 0-2 24, DeClercq 2-3 1-2 5, Mercer 9-18 2-2 21, Anderson 4-8 6-7 14, Knight 3-10 6-8 12, Minor 4-7 1-2 9, Barros 2-4 2-2 7, Edney 1-5 1-1 3, Tebak 0-1 1-2 1, Jones 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-78 21-30 102.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—New York 46 (Cummings 11), Boston 51 (Knight 11). Assists—New York 18 (Ward 5), Boston 29 (Knight 7). Technicals—Johnson, Boston illegal defense. A—18,624.

Dallas 23 26 24 24—99
Sacramento 25 20 33 27—105
DALLAS (99) Finley 9-22 5-6 23, Muresanu 4-7 7-8 16, Green 2-7 0-0 4, Strickland 7-12 3-4 17, Reeves 3-6 0-0 6, Riley 0-3 0-0 0, Respert 5-11 0-0 11, Davis 6-11 0-0 16, Bradley 3-8 0-0 6. Totals 39-87 15-18 99.
SACRAMENTO (105) Williamson 4-13 6-6 14, Owens 7-15 0-0 15, Thorpe 9-15 4-5 22, Abdul-Wahad 2-2 1-1 5, Johnson 6-10 0-0 12, Delaire 2-9 0-0 4, Polynice 3-8 0-0 6, Robinson 5-15 1-3 22, Hendrickson 1-1 0-0 2, Funderburke 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 44-90 13-19 105.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 47 (Muursepp 14), Sacramento 56 (Thorpe 15). Assists—Dallas 14 (Finley 9), Sacramento 30 (Johnson 7). Technicals—Dallas coach Nelson. A—14,861.

Seattle 20 29 15 23—87
Denver 24 17 27 21—89
SEATTLE (87) Schrempf 4-11 2-2 11, Baker 8-13 5-7 21, McIlvaine 1-3 0-0 2, Payton 4-18 5-6 14, Hawkins 4-9 6-7 14, Kersey 1-3 1-2 3, Ellis 3-10 0-0 6, Perkins 1-5 2-2 5, Anthony 3-4 2-2 11. Totals 29-76 23-29 87.
DENVER (89) Fortson 3-6 2-3 8, L.Ellis 4-11 0-0 8, Garrett 1-2 0-0 2, Goldwire 8-21 1-1 20, Alexander 10-15 1-2 25, Wolf 0-1 0-0 0, Newman 5-9 7-10 17, Jackson 1-6 1-2 3. Totals 32-73 12-18 89.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Seattle 47 (Baker 12), Denver 52 (L.Ellis 9). Assists—Seattle 22 (Schrempf, Payton 6), Denver 24 (Alexander 6). Technicals—Seattle coach Karl, Seattle illegal defense. A—15,945.

Berkovic may miss Argentina friendly

By ORI LEWIS

The national team will begin its preparations for the upcoming friendly international with Argentina next week with a practice game against the under-21 side today.

Coach Shlomo Scharf has insisted to the IFA that all Israel's international players in Europe be made available for the game. Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo and Brescia's Tal Banin will probably arrive for the game, but West Ham are reluctant to release Eyal Berkovic.

Scharf has called up 18 players for today's training session, including three changes from the squad which faced Romania last month. The new faces are recruit Assi Tubi of Hapoel Jerusalem and Maccabi Haifa's Haim Silvas and Maccabi Petah Tikva's Idan Tal who have been recalled.

Israel are seeking to continue their winning run in friendlies in the match against Argentina on April 15 at Teddy Stadium. The run now stands at three after victories over Turkey (4-0), Poland (2-0) and Romania (1-0).

Goalkeepers: Rafi Cohen (Bnei Yehuda), Nir Davidovich (Maccabi Haifa). **Defenders:** Alon Harazi (Betar J'lem), Felix Halfon (Hapoel TA), Ran Ben-Shimon (Hapoel Haifa), Arik Bennado (Maccabi Haifa), Amir Shelah (Maccabi Tel Aviv). **Midfield:** Assi Domb (Hapoel TA), David Amsalem (Betar Jerusalem), Najwan Grayev (Maccabi Haifa), Jan Talasnikov (Betar Jerusalem), Yossi Abuksis (Betar Jerusalem), Haim Silvas (Maccabi Haifa), Idan Tal (Maccabi Petah Tikva). **Strikers:** Alon Mizrahi (Maccabi Haifa), Ronnen Harazi (Hapoel Haifa), Nir Srvilia (Betar Jerusalem), Assi Tubi (Hapoel J'lem).

Courier rallies to give US Davis Cup win

STONE MOUNTAIN, Georgia (AP) — Jim Courier rallied from the brink of defeat in the Davis Cup yesterday to beat 18-year-old Marat Safin 0-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, giving the United States a dramatic 3-2 victory over Russia in the first round.

Andre Agassi was beaten in straight sets by Yevgeny Kafelnikov to even the best-of-5 series earlier in the day. Then the Americans seemed headed for their first Davis Cup home loss since 1987 when Courier lost the first eight games against the Russian teen-ager, ranked No. 170 in the world.

"I haven't played a match that poorly in a long time" said Agassi, who had only three break chances — all in the first set — and failed to convert any of them.

The US-Russia series was a day behind schedule because rain postponed Friday's opening singles matches. The Americans, who lost in the 1997 final at Sweden, have won 31 Davis Cup titles, more than any other country.

The winner of this series advances to the second round against Belgium, which defeated the Netherlands 3-2 Monday when Christophe Van Garsse finished off the decisive singles match against Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3. They completed a match that was halted Sunday because of darkness.

Agassi had won 16 straight Davis Cup singles, including a straight-set romp over Safin on Saturday to tie the American record set by Bill Tilden from 1920-26. But Kafelnikov prevented Agassi from setting a mark and clinching the best-of-5 series.

Agassi's powerful baseline strokes were off the entire match — he had only 18 winners and 35 unforced errors — and Kafelnikov's booming serve produced 12 aces and prevented any breaks.

On Sunday, Richey Reneberg and Todd Martin, paired for the first time in the Davis Cup, ended the Americans' five-match losing streak in doubles, they put the US up 2-1 with a 7-6, 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 victory over Kafelnikov and Safin.

Also, defending champion Sweden defeated Slovakia 3-2 after losing the first two matches. Magnus Gustafsson capped the Swedish comeback, beating Dominik Hrbaty 6-2, 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) in the decisive singles match.

Pippen: Reinsdorf can go to hell

HOUSTON (AP) — Scottie Pippen added more fuel to the Bulls breakup speculation, saying he won't accept a one-year contract and doesn't expect to be back next season — even if team management changes.

Pippen was asked what he would do if owner Jerry Reinsdorf offered one-year contracts to all the team's free agents.

"I think it's time for me to move on. If he wants to insult me and offer me a one-year deal, he can go to hell," Pippen said Sunday.

An unconfirmed Chicago gossip column report last week said Reinsdorf is prepared to bring back all the free agents — including Michael Jordan, Dennis Rodman, Pippen, Luc Longley, Steve Kerr and coach Phil Jackson — for one more year if the Bulls win a sixth title.

Pippen, in his 11th season, will be a free agent after this year. He is making $2.7 million this season under a contract extension signed in 1991 and has been unhappy with his salary and with general manager Jerry Krause.

The Rockets are expected to be at least $10m under the salary cap, and speculation has been rife in Houston that the team will make a bid for Pippen in the free agent market.

"It would be great for me because it would be the first time I would have played with a dominating big man," Pippen said. "I like Hakeem a lot and I have a lot of respect for him as a person. I really admire his game and the way he plays."